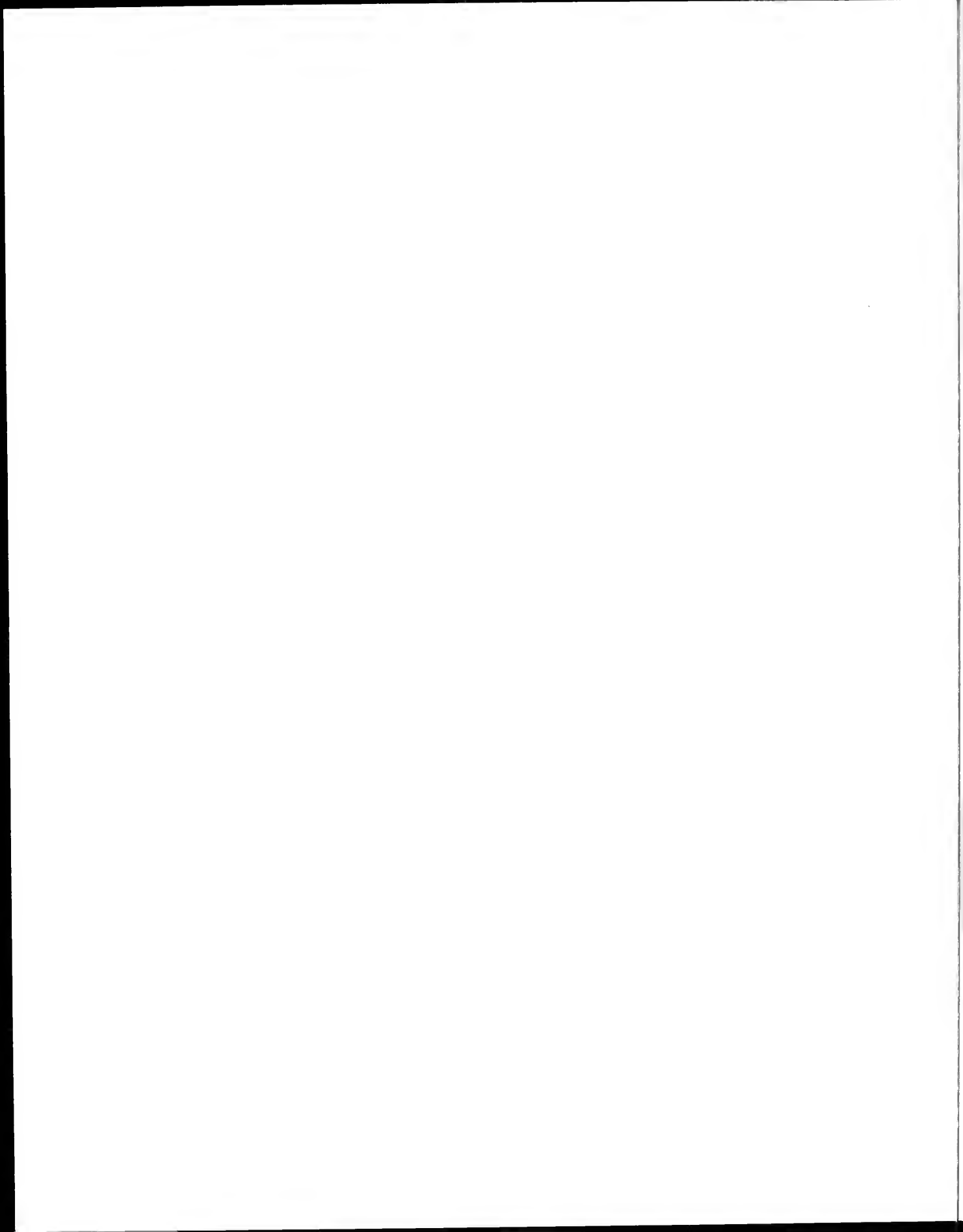


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NIGERIAN
ORNITHOLOGISTS'
SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL

This, the first number of volume 8 is unavoidably late in circulation, due mainly to my absence from Nigeria during April and May.

As will be observed from the paucity of material in this number we are still very short of contributions, which has presumably been caused by the decrease of members in the field. If, therefore, any members have material suitable for the Bulletin I would be very grateful to receive it as soon as possible.

Mr. Sharland is concerned by the rapidly diminishing bank account! If you have not yet paid your subscriptions for 1971 please do so as we require the finances to republish the first three volumes.

An important change of address for those people who are obtaining their copies of White's Check List of African Birds through Bob Dowsett, his address is now; National Museum, P.O.Box 498, Livingstone, Zambia.

Roy H. Parker.

.....

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BREEDING BEHAVIOUR OF A PAIR OF BLACK AND WHITE FLYCATCHERSBias musicus AT FREETOWN

G.D. Field

Bias musicus is a widespread though not abundant resident on the outskirts of the forest round Freetown. It is very conspicuous, both through its habit of sitting out in the open on exposed treetop branches and, more particularly, because of the loud and frequent calls of the male at all times of year but especially when breeding. A pair seems to need a large territory and I have not met pairs within audible distance of each other. There is usually more than one pair at Fourah Bay College, but at opposite ends of the campus, and my records refer to one pair at the edge of college ground.

On 29th March, 1969 a nest was begun in an almost isolated thirty foot high tree (Ficus sp) in my garden, with both birds trying out a particular fork, sitting there and shuffling round and the female depositing what looked like spiders' webs. However, this was abandoned and the pair moved across the valley. In 1970 from mid February on, the female was seen occasionally with nest material but the nest was not discovered until 14th March when the clutch of three was complete and incubation had begun. It was in the same Ficus c.25 feet up in a fork where several small branches diverged. The tree was leafless though the old leaves had been there when building started and the new leaves began to grow almost at once but provided no real shade until after the young had hatched. The nest was only discovered because a Great Spotted Cuckoo Clamator glandarius perched in a tree 15 yards away. Both flycatchers dived at it repeatedly, calling wildly, until it flew off. This was characteristic: during nesting attacks were noted on Lizard Buzzard Kaupifalco monogrammicus, Senegal Coucal Centropus senegalensis, Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike Campephaga phoenicea, and a raptor, probably the Goshawk Accipiter tachiro, all some distance from the nest tree, while birds driven from the tree itself included Blue-cheeked Bee-eater Merops superciliosus, Sharp-billed Honey-guide Prodotiscus insignia, and Lemon-bellied Crombec Sylvietta denti, though odd bulbuls, thrushes and weavers which passed through the tree were not molested.

Incubation was shared equally. The male, coming to relieve his mate, advertised his presence, his loud 'te-heuw's getting nearer until he eventually arrived at the tree. If the day was hot the female normally flew off at once. (Both birds when sitting seemed to feel the heat, regularly opening and shutting their beaks). Later in the day or under cloudy conditions the female was more reluctant to leave and the male often retired, later returning to perch close beside the nest. When the female left he usually went straight to the nest, though often pausing at the edge to utter more calls and fidgeting on the nest, moving his head from side to side. The female always flew directly to the nest, making only a small buzzing call as she approached, and the male always left immediately.

Observations could not be continuous, but several hours were spent watching and the events of one afternoon may be taken as typical. (All times have been rounded off to the nearest minute).

March 26 Female on nest Semi-clouded sky and strong wind

- 2.58 pm Male heard in distance
- 3.00 arrived in tree, off again almost at once calling 'te-heuw's
- 3.04 back in tree, calling soft 'weet weet weet'
- 3.05 off again with a caterpillar caught from the new leaves
- 3.09 heard in distance 'weet weet'
- 3.12 back in tree. 'te-heuw' followed by single 'weet's
- 3.16 off again, calling 'te-heuw'
- 3.18 heard calling 'te-heuw's in distance
- 3.24 " " " " "
- 3.25 in tree. Female left at once with sharp buzz. Male, calling a sharp crescendo 'weet weet weet weet', dived after an insect
- 3.28 onto nest, after female had flown past buzzing
- 3.54 pair of raptors (goshawks ?) calling in thick bushes nearby. Male at once 'te-heuw'ing on nest
- 3.55 off in pursuit of raptor which flew rapidly past at some distance
- 3.58 reappeared and sat in neighbouring tree calling several times
- 4.01 onto nest. Much 'te-heuw'ing from nest
- 4.12 Female silently straight to nest. Male sat in tree 'te-heuw'ing, then off
- 4.27 'te-heuw' twice from neighbouring tree and heard calling off and on till
- 4.33 back in tree. Off again
- 4.41 back in tree, calling
- 4.42 Female away with a single buzz and Male straight to nest still calling
- 5.27 flew off calling loudly as a man walked beneath the tree
- 5.29 Female approached high in air with several small 'tzzz' noises; dropped almost vertically onto nest.

The young hatched on 28th March and were fed from the start by both parents, generally with small unidentified insects though at times butterflies (small Lycaenids) were given. Larger butterflies which the adults ate (e.g. Precis oenone) were not seen to be given, nor the caterpillars which the adults took from the Ficus leaves. In the early stages one parent brooded the young most of the time while the other foraged. Intervals between feeding ranged from 2 to 34 minutes, averaging at about 16 minutes between feeds. Even on the first day there was a period of 12 minutes (2.41-2.53 pm) when the nest was unattended, apparently in full sun, though it is possible the young leaves already provided some shade. Turns were regular; only once was the male seen to feed and fly off leaving the female still brooding. There was the same difference in approach, the male calling even at the nest edge, the female approaching usually with a single 'tzzz'.

The leaves were roughly fully grown by 7th April, and had provided considerable shade for some days before this. Unfortunately, they also prevented direct viewing of the nest from a distance, so that it is not known when more or less continuous brooding ceased, but certainly from early

in April both adults were fully engaged in bringing food. The young did not leave the nest till their 21st day of life, after some days of bulging precariously over the nest edge.

The first young flew at 3.30 pm on 17th April, about 12 ft., to the far side of the nest tree, where it sat unmoving being fed occasionally. At c 5.30 a second fledgling joined it, much more active, and soon after 6.00 No. 2, followed by No. 1, left the tree and moved out of sight into some bushy-topped trees. No. 3 was still in the nest at dusk. Next day from 1.00 pm till dusk one fledgling was on the ground and later on a strand of creeper two feet up about forty feet from the nest tree. It was fed exclusively by the male, and the female and other young were not seen. Thereafter they left the garden though the male could often be heard calling, but on 30th April both parents were seen together with two juveniles looking very wobbly and apparently still totally dependent on the adults. On 7th and 14th May the parents were seen with one juvenile and on the 22nd with two. These four were again seen on 31st May when the male fed one of them a butterfly - six weeks after leaving the nest. A day or two later however the male drove off one juvenile which approached with the shivering begging attitude, and later dived repeatedly at it as at an intruder.

On 12th June the pair was alone, back at the nest tree, and on the 14th the male was driving off all intruders, even bulbuls, and the female was noted with nest material. A nest was built at the far side of the same tree, too high to be inspected. I went on leave on 28th June without being sure whether eggs had been laid. However on 11th September, the day I returned, two adults and one well-grown juvenile were in the garden, probably the original pair plus one offspring of this second brood. On September 18th, 20th, 23rd, 24th and 29th, but definitely not in the intervening days, all three arrived in the garden between 6.15 and 6.25 depending on light conditions and, after much toing and froing with the male calling vigorously the entire time, settled to roost, usually close together on one open lateral spray of a small tree, each having a regular position which it adhered to except that the juvenile twice chose a spray some six feet above. Length of time settling down took between six and twenty minutes. On October 1st only the adults roosted there - for the last time though the three birds were seen together on the 3rd and 13th October in the morning and on the 20th in the evening when they appeared about to roost but eventually flew off. Thereafter though the (presumed) pair visited the garden irregularly the three in association were not seen.

DISCUSSION

1. Because of the difficulty of observation little is known of the length of post-fledging dependence on the parents of most passerine birds. On this occasion not only were the first brood in the nest for three weeks but were being fed at least partially for a further six weeks, though soon after this parental care was entirely broken off. The (presumed) survivor of the second brood was still with the parents eighteen weeks after nest building started though no feeding of it was observed. This compares with a period of about fifteen weeks from start of building to complete independence for the first brood. The technique of aerial sorties

is probably harder to become proficient at than the feeding habits of most passerines, which may help to explain the long parental association.

The conditions under which the two broods were raised were different. When the first brood fledged no significant rain had fallen and e.g. butterflies in the garden were scarce (independent butterfly trapping confirms this). Rain fell with increasing regularity during May and presumably the availability of suitable prey increased (certainly butterflies did). When the second brood fledged it will have been in the middle of the 'deep' rains, when the difficulties of a young bird learning to fend for itself are probably even further increased.

2. In species with obvious sexual dimorphism it seems uncommon for the more conspicuous bird to share equally in brooding on an open nest. The basically brown female was relatively inconspicuous even when the leaves were absent; the black and white male was much more easily seen even when sitting still, and at least this individual advertised himself at the nest by voice and the length of time he took settling down, turning his white breast in various directions. Presumably predators present little problem, (a) because of the almost complete isolation of the tree, thus virtually barring snakes and squirrels, and (b) because of the fierce appearance of the birds - crested and with bright yellow eye and aggressive behaviour.

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INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS IN NIGERIA

By

D.I.M. Wallace

Ostrich *Struthio camelus*

On 9th December 1970 in a forest reserve in the centre of the North-East State, I saw three adult male and one female Ostriches.

This constitutes the only recent record of the species in Nigeria.

Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*

On 11th and 12th July 1970, an immature booby was present off the breakwaters of the Lagos Lagoon mouth. During the first day it fished continually in the interface of sea and lagoon, a water area always full of fish. On the second morning it had ceased feeding and probably departed at mid-day.

The bird was clearly smaller than the European Gannet Sula bassana, being very agile and at times planing about like a shearwater. Its plumage was rather uniform, overall brown with a paler shade on the secondary coverts and distinctly lighter areas in the centre of the underwing and belly giving a faint indication of the adult plumage pattern. No speckling was visible in the field.

Bannerman (1953) indicates that this species is abundant around Fernando Po but gave no definite record for Nigeria. Sander (1956) mentions three between June and November, all in or outside the lagoon mouth. This is therefore only the fourth record for Nigeria.

Pochard Aythya ferina

On 7th December 1970, I found an immature drake Pochard Aythya ferina on a small pool near the more northerly of the two river bridges about 15 miles south of Kano. I was able to approach within 20 yards and note in particular the chestnut head and dark chest contrasting with a grey body.

Reference to Bannerman (1953) and Elgood (1966) shows this to be the second most southerly record in Nigeria.

Lappet-faced Vulture Aegypius tracheliotos

On 8th December 1970 about ten miles west of Potiskum, I saw a large blackish vulture sitting on top of a dead tree. Since I was in a moving car, little detail could be seen but I certainly saw a naked area of dark pink flesh on the side of the head. On the same day I had ample opportunity to compare my impression of the bird with three other vultures, namely the White-headed Trigonoceps occipitalis, the White-backed Gyps bengalensis and the Sociable Neophron monachus. It was none of these.

On the next day (9th December) I was set afoot by a car breakdown 28 miles south of Damaturu. The country was largely forest reserve and vultures and other raptors were very prominent. In the course of journeys to and from Damaturu, I saw two large vultures which recalled the bird of the previous day. One of these afforded excellent flight views at close range for five minutes and was undoubtedly a Lappet-faced Vulture Aegypius tracheliotos. The identification was based on the following description:-

Size larger than any other species present (including Ruppell's Griffon Gyps ruppellii with noticeably wider wing-span, square wing-set and short tail; plumage blackish-brown relieved only by pale chest ruff, heavily-streaked whitish underparts and mottled whitish leg coverts which contrasted with dark wing linings; forehead and noticeably heavy bill greyish-flesh contrasting with dark neck.

The pattern of the underparts (particularly the streaking) immediately distinguished the bird from all other vultures present.

It seems clear that this species may be more common in N. Nigeria than published references indicate. A.J. Hopson considered it resident

and frequent at Mallamfatori and there are records from three or four other places. It may well be commoner than ornithologists in the North-East State !

Collared Pratincole Pratincola nuchalis

On 5th September 1970, I saw what I first took to be a white-rumped petrel near the smaller breakwater at Tarkwa, Lagos. On the 6th I re-found the bird and another identical to it. On close observation they proved to be immature Collared Pratincoles Pratincola nuchalis, a species normally restricted in West Africa to the rocks of inland rivers.

Apart from their red bills and legs, their plumage was essentially a combination of grey-brown (upperparts and chest), black (flight feathers and tail centre) and white (tail coverts, tail base and sides). Their resemblance in pouring rain to petrels was uncanny.

Sander (1956) mentioned occurrences at Lagos in September and October 1949. These are therefore only the third and fourth records for coastal S.W. Nigeria.

Collared Dove Streptopelia roseogrisea

During the early morning of 9th December, 1970, I journeyed from Maiduguri to the forest reserve south of Damaturu. On three occasions during this journey, at Beni Sheik near Darkalwa and north of Gujba, I saw a species of dove new to me in Nigeria. All views were of birds in flight only but in the first and second cases, they came within a few yards of me and the plumage pattern was therefore clear. I was also able to compare them with at least six other species of dove within minutes or two hours at the most and describe them as follows:-

Size between Turtle Dove Streptopelia turtur and Niger Mourning Dove Streptopelia decipiens, flight set and action closest to latter but less bulky and faster, plumage pale and lacking definite marks, being generally buff with a greyish or mauve bloom at certain angles, flight pattern distinct from all other species with wing showing marked contrast of blackish ended primaries with greyish wing coverts and linings and undertail showing a broad white terminal band contrasting with dark but not black base, head uniform with body, short black collar mark on neck.

I find the identification of certain Nigerian doves troublesome but I am in no doubt that these birds (four altogether, two at Beni Sheik) were Collared Doves Streptopelia roseogrisea. In all three localities, they were in their typical (European) niche of cultivation near human habitation.

Bannerman (1953) is not specific about the occurrence of this bird in Nigeria but it is in fact common between Sokoto and Lake Chad. The above records were made about 80 miles S. of that latitude.

Acacia Warbler *Apalis pulchella*

On 8th December 1970 in an acacia thicket about 20 miles south of Potiskum on the road to Maiduguri I saw what I first took to be a yellowish Phylloscopus. Closer views made it clear that while it was a warbler, it was new to me. The following description is based on a field sketch:-

Small Phylloscopus-like warbler, shape differing only in spikier bill and longer, graduated tail; plumage essentially greenish-grey above relieved by yellowish around eye, slightly darker wings and tail feathers which also showed striking white tips, underparts apparently wholly warm yellow, bill brown, legs reddish flesh.

The bird was feeding quietly in canopy foliage and searching hard for insects.

Bannerman (1953) is not specific about the occurrence in Nigeria of the Acacia Warbler *Apalis pulchella* but reference to that work and Mackworth-Praed and Grant (1953) left me in no doubt that it was this species that I had seen. That it does occur in Nigeria is shown by several records made on the western side of Lake Chad by A.J. Hopson but its occurrence near Potiskum represents a range extension of about 160 miles W.S.W.

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NOTESA SPECIES NEW TO NIGERIARED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* AT LAGOS

The bird was first seen 23 November 1970 on Victoria Island and collected 26 November.

DESCRIPTION: Immature male. Length 6 3/4 inches. Upperparts: Forehead and crown brown speckled with darker brown, buff and rufous. Nape brown without speckling. Back and scapulars rufous barred with dark brown edged with buff. Rump similar but slightly greyer brown. Upper tail coverts like back but with more buff. Coverts extend 1 3/4" down tail. Retrices: Upper side dark brown, slightly rufous. Tips worn but three outermost pairs have narrow buffy-white tips with narrow dark brown subterminal bands. Outer web of outer retrices cream colored. Next three pairs have narrow cream edging on outer edge, this light edging decreasing in length inwards. Tail slightly graduated, outermost retrices being 5 mm. shorter than worn middle pair. Middle retrices become narrower towards tip, presenting a slightly pointed appearance,

Wings: Primaries dark brown with faint buff tips and buff edging on outer edge. Secondaries similar but with broader buff edging and tips. Innermost secondaries have narrow darker brown band separating buff tip from rest of feather. Wing coverts brown with broad rufous-buff edges and darker brown subterminal markings. (In the field a light "shoulder edge" was sometimes visible due to exposure of whitish underwing coverts). Head: Buff line over eye more evident in field than in hand. Lores buff with a few dark specks. Ear coverts dark brown appearing in field as dark patch from eye through ear. Underparts: Chin, throat, belly and under tail-coverts unmarked greyish white. Breast slightly darker greyish-white. Sides of throat and breast, flanks and thighs scalloped with dark brown - scalloping extends all the way up side of neck to base of earpatch and bill. Underside of tail grey brown with buff tips and dark subterminal markings. Underside of primaries silvery grey. Under-wing coverts a mixture of silvery grey and whitish with dark specks. Soft Parts: Eye very dark brown or black. Feet and tarsus dark brown-grey, soles lighter. Bill dark horn colour tip, greyish-white to yellowish-white base. Gape has yellow edge when mouth closed but inside mouth is whitish. Measurements: Wing 90. Tail 70. Tarsus 22. Bill 12.5. Second primary longer than fifth. Internal: Testes small. Stomach contained beetle parts. Bird exceedingly fat.

An identical looking bird was seen a year ago in November 1969 on Victoria Island by the same observers. An attempt to collect that bird was unsuccessful.

John P. Gee
J. B. Heighan.

CORRESPONDENCE

To: The Editor,
Nigerian Ornithologists' Society.

Dear Editor,

"MOLE GAME RESERVE LIST"

BY

W.G. HARVEY AND I.D. HARRISON

Messrs. Harvey and Harrison are to be congratulated in making known to readers the avifauna potential of the Mole Reserve. However, it seems necessary to make some critical remarks in fairness to Dr. Bannerman and his many dilligent informants of those earlier (and much harder) times in West Africa.

The article misleads the reader to think that northern Ghana is not a "dry country" and this impression was undoubtedly due to the exceptional wet season of 1968 that they experienced. From late September 1968, the flood gates at the Akosombo dam had to be fully open for over 3 months to allow the excess water to flow away. In a year of average rain fall in the North the gates may be opened for only a few weeks. The lists therefore, at the end of the article are generally inaccurate.

Apart from a few of the species the list for dry country birds is typical of what you see throughout northern Ghana as it is a "dry country" for most of the year. The list of species only thought to have been forest species is perhaps the most inaccurate and Bannerman has been misread.

What Bannerman writes is as follows:-

Brown-necked Parrot: "confined to the drier parts of West Africa" Page 519.

Blackcap-Babbler: "frequents closed forests and most types of parklands" Page 841.

Oriole-Babbler: "Ranging throughout the savanna belt". Gambia is mentioned as part of its range. Page 846/847.

Simple Leaf-Love: "occasionally more open bush among tall grass" Page 876.

Red-billed Wood-Dove: "as much at home in forest clearings as in the open bush. In the grass country it becomes less numerous than in the tree savanna and as the dry belt nears the desert its numbers quickly diminish". Page 509.

White-bellied Crombec: "it is found in forest (probably second growth) and in thickets of dense bush, visiting plantations in savanna country". (Page 1061).

Long-tailed Sunbird: "8°N may be taken as the southern limit of this species". This is at least 200 miles south of the Mole game reserve. Harvey and Harrison quote Bannerman as saying that this is a dry country bird implying that Mole isn't. Bannerman is correct but the dry country extends 200 miles south of Mole.

It is always dangerous to list a species as rare in an area little worked by ornithologists. Their comments for Cisticola emini is perhaps typical. It was first located in Ghana by Lamm and others in 1958 on the Accra Plains. It was then found along the Gambaga escarpment by myself only because this happens to be accessible by car. One should not conclude from such observations that it is rare, better to conclude that travel in N. Ghana and to rocky out crops is difficult. R.N.W. Sutton's comments at the end of his paper in the same issue emphasise this and the fact that resident ornithologists have been few and far between in N. Ghana. He writes "as was to be expected, certain species rarely or never recorded in Ghana before were found in some cases quite commonly".

Finally it is a very doubtful advantage to list many species of which the identifications are not absolutely certain and in any exceptional case this should be clearly indicated by placing the whole record in brackets. Without wishing to be unjust to their good work, we have grave doubts concerning the separation of so many accipiters and their allies - a notoriously difficult group - by observers who are very inexperienced in a West African sense.

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EDITORIAL

My thanks go to all those members who responded to my request in the last issue for written material. Some of this is being kept for the next Bulletin and several other items have been promised. This, however, does not mean that the situation has drastically changed and I still require a constant (?) flow of publishable works on any ornithological topic.

The reprinted Volume 1 (1964) of the Bulletin should be ready by the end of October. I have had several orders already but all further orders should be sent to R.E.Sharland to whom all the back issues will be sent as soon as they are completed.

Roy H. Parker.

.....

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Zoological Society of London, Regents Park, London.

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American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79 St., New York,
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General Library, University of California, Berkley, California 94720.

Los Angeles Mus of Nat.Hist., 900, Exposition Boulv., Los Angeles,
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Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard Univ., Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

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THE BIRDS OF IKOYI, LAGOS

M.F. Forrester

In this article I have attempted to list all the birds seen in Ikoyi over the last $2\frac{1}{2}$ years by observers known to myself. The table below shows those species seen by me between June 1968 - December 1969, and those other birds seen by G. Pettitt, J.P. Gee and J. Heigham over a slightly longer period.

Ikoyi is the residential area of Lagos. An island 3 miles by $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, its western end is densely populated, with little vegetation. This is separated from the low-density housing area by the golf course, on which there are surprisingly few birds. The low-density area, approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles square, is well wooded and gives birds good protection. At the north west of the island is a drained marshy area, the bund, the only part of the island not covered by houses, on which N.E.T. have a radio station. It is crossed by many drainage ditches. It extends at its eastern end to Ikoyi Park, a small palm covered area. It is bordered on its seaward side by poor mangrove trees, and on its landward side is a dense thicket which borders the inhabited area of Turnbull Road. The rest of the bund is covered with sedge, and there is one small fishing village on the waterside. It is this bund area and associated thickets which contain the larger portion of the bird life on the island.

The 140 species of birds seen on the island, some of which are individually shy and retiring, must be prepared to live within a short distance of man, and the list produces no real surprises. What is surprising, however, is that Victoria Island, no more than 400 yards away, has a very different bird population. Heigham (1969) states that Victoria Island is very much a stopping-off place for passing birds, whereas a large number of the Ikoyi species are resident or dry season visitors who stay several months. About 50 birds from the lists of the two islands do not appear in the other.

Several birds new to the Lagos area as defined by Sander, (1956-57) appear; the Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo Cercococcyx olivinus, the Long-tailed Parakeet Psittacula krameri, Reichenbach's Sunbird Nectarinia reichenbachii, and the Crowned Crane Balearica pavonina, although the last is probably an escapee rather than an accidental. The Reichenbach's Sunbird is common in the area given below, and is far more numerous than Bannerman (1953) suggests it would be. Probably the most satisfying sighting, however, was that of a Bat Hawk Machaerhamphus alcinus, at 6.00 a.m. one morning as the author was setting off on a bird-watching expedition to another area. This is apparently the first sighting of a Bat Hawk in the area since Sir Bernard Bourdillon's, record in Bannerman (op. cit.) of 1943.

Grey Pelican Pelecanus rufescens: Flock of 50-70 seen once over residential area N.E. Ikoyi. December.

Red-necked Little Bittern Ixobrychus minutus: Seen only twice, June in each year in bund area next to creek.

Cattle Egret Ardeola ibis: One bird seen feeding in sedge on bund, January. Apparently accidental.

African Great White Egret Egretta alba: Seen in flight over bund area, January.

Little Egret Egretta garzetta: Same as for Grey Heron, though they are usually more common, particularly in the bund area.

Grey Heron Ardea cinerea: Seen throughout the year, but far more common in dry season (October-March), wading in Lagoon N. of Ikoyi.

Purple Heron Ardea purpurea: Seen only occasionally dry season, bund and Turnbull Road.

Palm-nut Vulture Gypohierax angolensis: Seen once, over bund, August flying approx. 200 ft.

Pallid Harrier Circus macrourus: One bird seen quartering bund late February.

West African Harrier Hawk Polyborides radiatus: A pair seen quartering bund area and thickets, early March.

West African Goshawk Accipiter toussenellii: Seen once only, an obviously errant bird in S.W. Ikoyi dense residential area - August.

Eritrean Shikra Accipiter badius: Occasionally in E. Ikoyi residential area. Seen all months.

Lizard Buzzard Kaupifalco monogrammicus: Sparse. Seen very occasionally in E. Ikoyi residential area in dry season.

Black Kite Milvus migrans: Common in dry season, particularly over bund and Queen's Drive, S.W. Ikoyi residential area near water. Not seen in rains. First appearance beginning October.

Bat Hawk Machaerhamphus alcinus: One bird seen at dawn in July, flying over residential area calling. From wing shape, colour and call, identification certain.

Osprey Pandion haliaetus: Seen occasionally dry season over bund area.

Grey Kestrel Falco ardosiaceus: Seen January, flying from Turnbull Road to residential area. This could well be the bird that is known to live on Victoria Island.

European Kestrel Falco tinnunculus: Seen two or three times January and February, bund and Turnbull Road.

African Crane Crex egregia: Seen occasionally January and February, bund area. 2 have been seen at once.

Black Crake Limnecorax flavirostra: Apparently common on bund, but elusive. Maximum of 5 seen at once.

Crowned Crane Balearica pavonina: Seen regularly on the golf course dry season. It could fly but was probably an escapee.

Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola: One bird seen in company with Greenshanks, March. Others late November.

Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula: Several seen in marshy area in bund, November.

Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius: Several seen in marshy area in bund, November.

Kittlitz's Sand-Plover Charadrius pecuarius: One bird seen by village on bund, March. Ought to be far more numerous in the area.

Curlew Numenius arquata: One seen on bund, November.

Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus: Common in bund and park areas, feeding in waterlogged areas. Seen all months, but numbers greater in dry season.

Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa lapponica: One seen on bund, November.

Greenshank Tringa nebularia: Seen occasionally, bund, in dry season. Scarce - c.f. Victoria Island where abundant.

Marsh Sandpiper Tringa stagnatilis: Several on marsh behind bund, November.

Green Sandpiper Tringa ochropus: Several on marsh behind bund, November.

Common Sandpiper Tringa hypoleucos: Common in bund and neighbouring areas. Seen all months but more in dry season.

Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus: One seen just behind village on bund, November.

Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus: Seen occasionally, flocks of 20-50 flying over towards East in evening. One seen perched on poles near village November.

Royal Tern Sterna maxima: One bird seen several times near village on bund, end of rainy season. These are reasonably plentiful on the harbour three miles away.

Sandwich Tern Sterna sandvicensis: Not common - seen v. occasionally on Lagoon at rear of Ikoyi.

Common Tern Sterna hirundo: Seen often near village on bund in June-October and on Five Cowrie Creek.

Black Tern Sterna nigra: As for Common Tern above. By far the most abundant tern.

Red-eyed Turtle-Dove Streptopelia semitorquata: Common all over Ikoyi, particularly in wooded areas. Seen all year.

Laughing Dove Streptopelia senegalensis: Very common all over Ikoyi, seen all year.

Tambourine Dove Turtur tympanistria: Seen twice only, in wooded area adjoining bund, October.

Red-billed Wood-Dove Turtur afer: Common in bund area and other wooded parts. Seen all year.

Sierra Leone Green Fruit Pigeon Treron australis: Common in dry season, feeding in wooded area by Turnbull Road. Flocks of up to 20 at once.

Long-tailed Parakeet Psittacula krameri: One and occasionally two seen in bund area in dry season 1968/69. Not seen this year yet.

Red-headed Love-bird Agapornis pullaria: Often seen in all seasons but more common in dry, flying in small flocks. Feeds in thickets near bund. Up to 9 seen at a time.

Levaillant's Cuckoo Clamator levaillantii: One bird seen occasionally in dry season in woods off Turnbull Road. Scarce.

Olive Long-tailed Cuckoo Cercococcyx olivinus: One bird seen January and February in Turnbull Road. It was sitting in a tree and swooping on caterpillars on low growing melon-type plants nearby. Later a young bird of this species was seen being fed by a Village Weaver. A visit to the British Museum for comparison convinced me that the identification was certain.

Didric Cuckoo Chrysococcyx caprius: Resident, but more common in dry season. Flocks of 5 or 6 often seen all over island.

Senegal Coucal Centropus senegalensis: Common all over Ikoyi; seen all year in both normal and dark versions.

Plain Nightjar Caprimulgus inornatus: One seen near palm trees S. end of Turnbull Road, November.

Long-tailed Nightjar Caprimulgus climacurus: Two birds seen resting on Turnbull Road late evening, December.

Little African Swift Apus affinis: Very common all over island all the year.

West African Palm Swift Cypsiurus parvus: Common all the year, particularly at vicinity of coco-nut palms at edge of Five Cowrie creek and lagoon.

Pied Kingfisher Ceryle rudis: Common. Seen all year in park, bund and along all creeks.

Pigmy Kingfisher Ceyx picta: One bird often seen feeding in my garden dry season

Senegal Kingfisher Halcyon senegalensis: Common, particularly in residential area N.E. Ikoyi and bund area.

Nigerian Blue-breasted Kingfisher Halcyon malimbica: Fairly common at bund and park areas. Seen all year.

Rosy Bee-eater Merops malimbicus: Common in dry season but also present in rains. Seen all over island, once in a flock of over 100 birds. October.

White-throated Bee-eater Merops albicollis: Very common dry season all over island. Up to 8 seen at one time.

West African Broad-billed Roller Eurystomus glaucurus: One or two birds seen on 3 occasions on dead tree in Turnbull Road, November and December.

Allied Hornbill Tockus fasciatus: Two birds seen in thicket near bund, November. Ought to be more common.

Speckled Tinker Bird Pogoniulus scolopaceus: This bird is heard all year in Ikoyi in the residential area but I have only managed to see it once.

Grey Woodpecker Mesopicos goertae: Seen often in bund area. Up to 4 birds often present in Turnbull Road.

European Swallow Hirundo rustica: Very common in dry season. Seen from beginning of October all over island.

Ethiopian Swallow Hirundo aethiopica: Seen very occasionally dry season in bund area.

Rufous-chested Swallow Hirundo senirufa: As for Ethiopian swallow.

Grey-headed Wagtail Motacilla flava: Fairly common in the dry season, residential area.

African Pied Wagtail Motacilla alba: Common in the dry months, residential area.

Plain-backed Pipit Anthus leucophrys: Uncommon, but seen occasionally in bund area.

Gambian Puff-back Shrike Dryoscopus gambensis: Pairs seen quite often in residential area and bund.

Barbary Shrike Laniarius barbarus: The commonest shrike in Ikoyi. Seen all year in residential and bund areas. Common in mangroves near water's edge. Often heard.

West African Fiscal Shrike Lanius collaris: Seen occasionally in residential areas. Does not appear to be as common in Ikoyi as Victoria Island.

Corsican Woodchat Lanius senator badius: One bird seen all dry season in bund area.

Black-winged Oriole Oriolus nigripennis: Seen twice, a pair of birds by Turnbull Road in thick bushes. October.

Chestnut-winged Starling Onychognathus fulgidus: Occasionally seen in dry season by bund area. Sometimes on palm trees, Turnbull Road.

Velvet-headed Glossy Starling Lamprotornis purpureiceps: Seen once October. A pair, believed this species, by bund area, in tall tree.

Splendid Glossy Starling Lamprotornis splendidus: Seen all year round. Roosts in mangroves by Ikoyi park. Many hundreds present.

Amethyst Starling Cinnyricinclus leucogaster: A group seen Turnbull Road, January.

Common Bulbul Pycnonotus barbatus: Widespread and abundant all over Ikoyi, all seasons.

Little Green Bulbul Andropadus virens: One bird seen in wooded area Turnbull Road, December, and several times subsequently. It is heard quite often.

Simple Leaf-love Chlorocichla simplex: Fairly common, skulking in many parts of residential area.

Swamp Palm Bulbul Thescelocichla leucopleurus: Several seen in thickets backing onto bund area, October-December.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat Cossypha niveicapilla: An immature bird caught October thicket near bund. Seen once fleetingly October and once June.

Kurrichance Thrush Turdus pelios: Common all year, particularly in residential area.

Melodious Warbler Hippolais polyglotta: Several seen in small flock on bund late November.

Willow Warbler Phylloscopus trochilus: Quite common dry season migrant all over island.

Chattering Grass-Warbler Cisticola anonyma: Seen occasionally in grassy area Turnbull Road.

Rufous Grass-Warbler Cisticola galactotes: Very common in all grassy areas. Nest seen October.

Gold Coast Common Fantail Warbler Cisticola juncidis: One bird, believed this species, often present in grassy area, end of Turnbull Road, end of rainy season.

West African Prinia Prinia subflava: Seen very occasionally on grassy area near bund.

Grey-capped Bush-warbler Apalis flavida: One bird seen in flowering trees off Turnbull Road, November.

Oriole Babbler Hypergerus atriceps: Seen frequently in Turnbull Road, all year.

Grey-backed Camaroptera Camaroptera brachyura: This is a common bird of residential area and bund thickets. More often heard than seen.

White-bellied Crombec Sylvietta virens: Seen occasionally in bund and nearby thickets, particularly early dry season.

Spotted Flycatcher Muscicapa striata: Common all over island in dry season. First appears October. Numbers decrease around December - the bird probably passes south.

Pied Flycatcher Ficedula hypoleuca: Seen only once, December in flowering trees by Turnbull Road.

West African Black Flycatcher Melaenornis edoliodes: Pair seen at top of tree, residential area, N.E. Ikoyi, September.

Scarlet-spectacled Flycatcher Platysteira cyanea: Quite common in bund and nearby areas. More often heard than seen.

Blue Fairy Flycatcher Trochocercus longicauda: Several seen all year in thickets near bund. Maximum of 5 at one time.

Mouse-Brown Sunbird Anthreptes gabonicus: Common in mangroves all round fringe of island on lagoon. All year.

Collared Sunbird Anthreptes collaris: Not as common as other familiar sunbirds. In compounds in residential areas. More frequent during rainy season.

Olive Sunbird Nectarinia olivacea: Occasionally seen Turnbull Road area dry season but very inconspicuous.

Reichenbach's Sunbird Nectarinia reichenbachii: In spite of Bannerman, who asserts it is very rare west of the Cameroons, this species is fairly common in thicket areas near bund. At least 5 pairs are thought to be present. Checked at British Museum and identification absolutely certain. The birds often visit the gardens in Turnbull Road.

Olive-backed Sunbird Nectarinia verticalis: Fairly common in compounds but, as with Olive-Bellied, found more in bund area gardens. All year. Often consorts with Reichenbach sunbird.

Carmelite Sunbird Nectarinia fuliginosa: Commonly seen in gardens in residential area: rainy season.

Yellow-bellied Sunbird Nectarinia venusta: Common all year in compounds, favouring canna lilies and hibiscus. Often chased off plants by Copper Sunbird.

Olive-bellied Sunbird Nectarinia chloropygia: Very common in residential area near bund area, all year.

Copper Sunbird Nectarinia cuprea: Common all year in compound in residential area, although less frequent in dry season.

Splendid Sunbird Nectarinia coccinigaster: Seen once only, in large flock of mixed sunbirds on eucalyptus tree, November, bund area.

Yellow White-eye Zosterops senegalensis: Common all year in residential area. Sometimes in flocks up to 6 or so.

Orange Weaver Ploceus aurantius: Scarce. Seen in eucalyptus near bund, November.

Village Weaver Ploceus cucullatus: The commonest weaver. Seen everywhere.

Chestnut-and-black Weaver Ploceus nigerrimus: Seen in palm and scrub thickets near bund area. Not common.

Swainson's Spectacled Weaver Ploceus nigricollis: Quite common in thickets near bund all year.

Grey-headed Sparrow Passer griseus: Very common, all year, everywhere.

Indigo Finch Hypochera?Sp.: Very occasionally associated with mannikins and other estrildine birds. Dry season.

Black-bellied Seed-cracker Pirenstes ostrinus: Seen occasionally in residential area compounds but fairly regularly seen in thickets near bund.

Grey-crowned Negro-finch Nigrita canicapilla: Very rarely seen, very often heard, residential area.

Chestnut-breasted Negro-finch Nigrita bicolor: One bird seen January, Turnbull Road. Up to 3 seen subsequently February-March. Bird seen with nesting material, March.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill Estrilda melpoda: Dry season in compounds in residential area. Not common.

Bar-breasted Fire-finch Lagonosticta rufopicta: Common in dry season in compounds and grassland near bund.

Blue-billed Mannikin Lonchura bicolor: Not so common. Seen very occasionally in residential area, but more in grass near bund.

Bronze Mannikin Lonchura cucullata: Very common, everywhere, all year.

The following birds have been heard by me, but not seen, and therefore not positively identified.

Senegal Thick-Knee Burhinus senegalensis: Occasionally heard late at night over residential area.

Barn Owl Tyto alba: Residential area all year.

White-faced Owl Otus leucotis: Residential area all year.

Messrs. J.P. Gee and J. Heigham have been active bird-watching in Ikoyi and neighbouring areas, and Garth Pettitt compiled a list published in the B.N.O.S. 5 (17) 24-26. The following birds have been seen by them, but not by the author.

Reef Heron	<u>Egretta garzetta</u>	J.H.
Goshawk	<u>Melierax gabar</u>	G.P.
Senegal Plover	<u>Vanellus lugubris</u>	G.P.
Forbes' Banded Plover	<u>Charadrius forbesi</u>	G.P.

Wood Sandpiper	<u>Tringa glareola</u>	J.P.G.
Redshank	<u>Tringa totanus</u>	J.H.
Niger Morning Dove	<u>Streptopelia decipiens</u>	J.P.G.
Grey Plantain-eater	<u>Crinifer piscator</u>	G.P.
Least Bee-eater	<u>Merops pusillus</u>	G.P.
Grey Hornbill	<u>Tockus nasutus</u>	J.P.G.
Yellow-throated Long-Claw	<u>Macronyx croceus</u>	G.P.
Black-crowned Tchagra	<u>Tchagra senegala</u>	G.P.
Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike	<u>Campephaga phoenicea</u>	G.P.
Garden Warbler	<u>Sylvia borin</u>	J.H.
Wood Warbler	<u>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</u>	J.H.
Yellow-browed Camaroptera	<u>Camaroptera supercilii</u>	J.P.G.
Buff-throated Sunbird	<u>Nectarinia adelberti</u>	J.P.G.

References

- Bannerman, D.A. (1953) Birds of West and Equatorial Africa. London: Oliver & Boyd.
- Heigham, J.P. (1969) Birds observed on Victoria Island. B.N.O.S. 6 (24): 109-119.
- Saunders, (1956-57) A List of the Birds of Lagos. Nig. Field 21 & 22.

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SOKOTO PROVINCE

(I) Sokoto Town & Environs

BY

P.J. Mundy & A.W. Cook

Sokoto, in the N.W. corner of Nigeria, is at the confluence of 2 rivers; these with the new large artificial lake at Wurno, 2 or 3 other lakes to the north, and a small one 60 miles to the south (Lake Natu) provide a well-watered area in an otherwise generally arid province. Quite probably, this part of Nigeria is an important "gateway" for Palearctic migrants, being one of three such in the north. To date (July) we have seen 46 species of migrants during the northern winter, which almost exactly coincides with the dry season - beginning of October to end of May. This number is one-fifth of the total number of species that we have seen around Sokoto (i.e. within 25 miles of the town), in 18 months.

If we include the recently published lists of the birds of Sokoto especially that of Dobbs (1959), then of a total of 272 species, seen at least once within 25 miles of Sokoto town, no fewer than 71 species are Palearctic migrants. For the province as a whole, exactly one-quarter of the recorded number of 306 birds are migrants (76 species). It would be interesting to get comparative lists of the migrants entering Nigeria through the 3 main "gateways" (i.e. Sokoto, Nguru and L. Chad).

We did at first set out to survey the bird variety around Sokoto, this completely occupying us for 1970. During this year, however, our efforts have been directed towards a number of the more common and resident birds, and report here the first results of these studies.

Grey Pelican Pelecanus rufescens:

This bird, as first noted by Serle (1943), still nests within the town. In 2 seasons, we have seen neither the Wood Ibis Ibis ibis nor the Marabou Leptoptilus crumeniferus nesting here, as both used to do, even very recently.

The pelicans first nested in baobabs (69/70) then changed site and nested in a silk cotton (70/71). They arrive during August and leave during March. By the time they leave, their numbers have grown to about 60 from about half that number of adults. However, when they go out fishing they do so in small groups, and only on one occasion did we see as many as 33 together (October). We have seen pelicans, presumably from Sokoto, at lake Wurno (20 miles away) and they have been seen at lake Natu (60 miles away).

We hope, in the coming season, to do accurate work on their breeding success and to find out what fish species they eat - i.e. whether they fish selectively or randomly.

Hooded Vulture Neophron monachus:

Sokoto is the centre of an area of high population and intensive cultivation. Hence there are large numbers of vultures, and apart from three sight records by Dobbs (op. cit.) in the 1950s of Ruppell's griffon Gyps ruppellii, and one "doubtful" record by Fry (1964) of a White-backed Gyps bengalensis, then the Hooded Vulture is the only one in and around Sokoto.

By means of weekly visits, we closely observed 27 nests, simply noting the presence, absence, and weight of the nestling. In these 27, 10 have fledged, another fell out of the tree during a storm and was probably stoned to death by the local boys, and one is still in the nest and will probably fledge in one or two weeks - i.e. about July 20th.

As one nest was used twice and failed twice, then we can say that 28 attempts produced 11 fledgelings - an apparent success of 40%. A greater proportion of eggs failed than chicks failed, even though adults seem to brood also at night (so possibly the colder harmattan nights are not a causative factor).

The average weight of newly hatched chicks is 80 grams, and weight rises to between 1,200 and 1,700 grams at fledging. After 15 days from hatching, growth rates increasingly diverge - but within that period, knowing the weight of a chick we can estimate its age to \pm one day. Although the chicks may return to the nest several days or even weeks after fledging, one bird fledged at an age of 98 days.

We hope next season to take a much larger nest sample, to experiment with 2-egg clutches and to hand-rear a nestling to note its food intake and growth rate.

Pied Crow/Great Spotted Cuckoo Corvus albus/Clanator glandarius

Intrigued by Serle's (op cit) observation of 5 cuckolded crows' nests out of 6 in Sokoto, and Bannerman's (1953) reiteration of that, we surveyed crows' nests. They are very much more difficult to find than vultures' nests, and even using a reward system, we located only 28 nests, of which we were able to reach 23. Cuckoos laid in 5 nests, and we found a total of 2 chicks and 7 eggs.

Unfortunately, this year there has been a tremendous mortality, so far 13 clutches disappearing entirely including 2 cuckoo chicks and 3 eggs. The reasons for this may be many - late rains, preceded by burning sun, our own activities, predation by Black Kites milvus migrans and genet cats, Genetta Sp., local medicine men etc.

A clutch of 5 eggs is the commonest, but we have only one nest containing 5 chicks, and in the other nests 1 or 2 chicks always quickly died. Hence there is no need for the cuckoos to be aggressive in any way. Among the cuckolded clutches, 4 contained 2 cuckoo eggs or chicks, and the 5th contained 1 egg. The crows lay eggs daily, and do so in the mornings. Incubation starts immediately. The cuckoo in 2 instances that we observed, laid on alternate days (supposing it to be the same cuckoo). In one case we actually saw 2 cuckoos fluttering around a nest, and one of them sat in it fleetingly for 1-2 seconds - did it lay its egg then? The crows paid no attention to the cuckoos.

We have found, therefore, that 22% of our small crow sample was cuckolded. This is nearly double that recorded in S. Africa (Payne and Payne, 1967) - 13% there.

We have recorded the begging calls of both crow and cuckoo chicks, and there is a distinct difference between them.

Ant Chat Myrmecocichla aethiops

The Ant Chat is a fairly common resident around Sokoto, frequenting the laterite quarries especially. In two areas - at Kalambaina, 7 miles from Sokoto, and at Sifawa 20 miles away - there are populations of about twenty each, and extensive series of their tunnels, which may extend to 8 ft. into the earth.

We kept a very close watch on their activities, and nothing seemed to occur until the rains began heavily - from June 25th or so. Local people said that these birds start nesting with the rains, and this is true, as to date (July 13th) we have found nine nests, and only one of these with (3) chicks. In two others which we dug out, there were clutches of 4 and 3 - egg sizes 23×18 , $23\frac{1}{2} \times 18$, $22\frac{1}{2} \times 17$, 23×17 , 26×18 , $23\frac{1}{2} \times 18$, and 25×18 the eggs being pure white and slightly glossed.

As we hope to record and photograph the development throughout in individual nests, we dig down to the nest, put an artificial roof on the tunnel and cover it with earth again. At first we used wood for the roof, but termites immediately attacked, and further rain washed in soil so as to completely fill in the tunnel. Now we are using corrugated asbestos.

In a second tunnel close to one with a nest, we found a 5 ft. black cobra (Naja nigricollis possibly) (at Sifawa), and we expect snakes to be the main cause of any mortality.

Various Weavers

We are watching a Village Weaver Ploceus cucullatus colony in a palm swamp that is vigorously preyed upon by a pair of Harrier Hawks Polyboroides radiatus, which may also be nesting. We are hoping to determine the effect of predation, and its amount, on the breeding cycle of this colony to test Elgood's (1963) synchrony hypothesis. We also have a small colony of Heuglin's Masked Weaver P. heuglini, and we hope to make comparative observations of the two solitary nesters, the Slender-Billed Weaver P. luteolus and the Vitelline Masked Weaver P. vitellinus.

In 1970, the Village Weavers nested during August and September and we labelled 54 nests. We were unable to follow through at that time, but within the observation period of two weeks only, 25 nests were lost or became empty - a very high mortality. Most of this was clearly caused by the Harrier Hawks, judging by the torn nests.

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FURTHER NOTES ON BORGU BIRDS

BY

Frank Walsh

A fairly comprehensive account of birds recorded in Borgu has previously appeared in the Bulletin Wells and Walsh (1969, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 6 (21): 1-25, and 6 (23): 63-93). Certain additional information was gathered in 1969 and is reported herein.

SPECIES NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED FROM BORGU

African Dwarf Bittern, Ixobrychus sturmii. Identified at two small marshes in the Kainji area on 27th June, 31st August, and 18th, 20th, and 28th October 1969. Probably a wet season visitor.

Peregrine Falcon, Falco peregrinus. A single bird seen attacking poultry at New Bussa on 29th October 1969.

White-throated Francolin, Francolinus albogularis. Probably a local resident in the Borgu Game Reserve, positively identified during April to August inclusive.

Caspian Tern, Sterna tschegrava. A pair below the Kainji Dam spillway on 12th and 13th November 1969. These birds were originally noted by Dr. C.H. Fry on the 12th November, Fry (Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 7 (25/26): 7-23). They were not present subsequently. See also Walsh (1969, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 6 (23): 105-106), for a report of a Caspian Tern on the Niger north of the Borgu area.

Redpate Grass Warbler, Cisticola ruficeps. Sight records and several netted during June to October inclusive 1969, in degraded Savanna (Sub-Sudan) at New Bussa.

Red-headed Quelea, Quelea erythrops. The records listed below were all obtained in 1969.

4 males, 3 females at Kontagora river bridge on the Kainji-Mokwa road on 27th June.

Several of both sexes netted at Kainji on 8th August.

3 males at Kaiama dam on 5th September.

5 males at Agwarra dam 16th July.

All four localities were visited in previous wet seasons without Queleas being recorded. It is noteworthy that Fry (1965, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 2 (5): 9-17), reported that Q. erythrops was common at Shika Fadama in the wet season 1959 according to P. Ward, but had not been seen subsequently. The Robinsons (1966, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 3 (9): 11-12), recorded a single male in June at Ilesha. This suggests that Q. erythrops is a wandering or eruptive species. However, in Borgu, the 1969 records may have arisen as a result of the birds losing their preferred habitats, owing to the formation of the lake (Foge Island may have been suitable over thousands of acres).

My only other record of this species is of a pair at the foot of Iggetti Rock on 5th July 1968.

In addition to the above six species the Little Green Bulbul, Andropadus virens, White-browed Forest Flycatcher, Fraseria cinerascens, Collared Sunbird, Anthreptes collaris and Olive Sunbird, Nectarinia olivacea were seen in the Shaffini Swamp Forest during 1969 and will be dealt with in a separate paper.

SPECIES PREVIOUSLY REPORTED FROM BORGU - SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Pintail, Anas acuta. One at New Bussa sewage lagoon 2nd November 1969. This species was also recorded in the previous two years, suggesting that a few always penetrate into central Borgu.

Black-winged Pratincole, Glareola nordmanni. Dowsett (1968, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 5 (20): 95), reporting this species from Lake Chad has discussed its status in West Africa. The Borgu records add spectacularly to the other data so it seems worthwhile to elaborate on the previous brief entry in the Checklist. Flocks definitely of this species (black underwing coverts carefully checked in many individuals) were seen on the Niger river in the Shagunnu area as follows:

200 on 17th January 1967

80 on 1st February 1967

150 on 16th February 1967

Also a flock of ca. 200 on 8th December 1966 were probably this species. 800-1,000 West African Pratincole, Glareola pratincola were present in the same area on 15th December 1966 and in smaller numbers subsequently until early May (at least), and led to initial confusion. Hence the flocks seen in January and February 1967 were very carefully examined. At no time were the two species associated together in mixed flocks.

D. Wells, at that time working independently and unbeknown to me, had similar experience on the same stretch of river, and recorded G. nordmanni on several occasions until 10th April 1967.

Between December 1967 and April 1968 I made ten visits to the area during which I recorded G. pratincola in flocks up to 1,000 strong but in spite of very careful examination, at close quarters, of many individuals, no further G. nordmanni were detected.

From the Borgu observations it seems possible that the migration pattern of G. nordmanni summarised by Dowsett (op. cit.) may not be the whole story and that this species may prove to 'winter' somewhere in the inundation zone of the Niger river, coming further south in exceptional seasons.

Speckled Pigeon, Columba guinea. Prior to the formation of the lake this species had not been seen in the Kainji area, though common in northern Borgu. It was seen occasionally from October 1968 and appeared to have established itself at New Bussa by November 1969.

Sedge Warbler, Acrocephalus schoenobaenus. Since Elgood et al. (1966, Ibis 108: 84-116) reported, it has become clear that the Sedge Warbler is a much more common and widespread visitor to West Africa. It has previously been reported from Borgu in the spring of 1968 Wells and Walsh (op. cit.). Additional records are given below.

Several on Niger river banks between Yelwa-Sakace (north of Borgu) on 5th December 1968.

Several on patches of sudd in the Foge area of the lake on 26th December 1968.

2, possibly more, on lakeside vegetation, Kainji 1st March 1969.

3 or more in hedge bordering the Niger Club, New Bussa throughout April 1969.

Singles at the New Bussa sewage lagoon on 7th and 22nd April, and on the exceptionally late date of 31st May 1969.

1 at Kainji damsite 2nd May 1969.

2 at Sanchita (near Pategi) on the Niger 29th April 1969 (south of Borgu).

It seems likely that some birds were wintering in the Foge Island area of the Lake and also on the marshy river banks north of Yelwa. There was also clearly a sizeable movement through the area in April with stragglers in May.

Quail Finch, Ortygospiza atricollis. This species was first detected on 10th February 1969. It was subsequently seen or heard on almost every visit to the Kainji damsite until my final visit on 11th October 1969. It was also seen flying over the New Bussa sewage lagoon during July to September and at Agwarra dam in February, June and July. Although it may have been overlooked previously it seems more likely that the formation of the lake caused changes in its distribution pattern in the area.

Localities mentioned in these notes are shown on maps in Wells and Walsh (op. cit.).

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NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN WETLAND CONSERVATION

BY

Roy H. Parker

It was with considerable gratification that I read recently a report on the International Conference on the Conservation of Wetlands and Waterfowl held in Iran on February 3rd, 1971.

The article (Wetland Conservation - Shooting Times and Country Magazine 15th May, 1971 by Jeffery Harrison) reports in detail many of recommendations made to the conference, these included the complete protection of several Wetlands of International importance under threat of destruction, as well as oil pollution, sales of pesticides in under-developed countries, wetland research in Africa and the regularization of wild fowling practices throughout Europe, Asia and Africa.

However, the most exciting step forward in wetland conservation occurred in the opening speech of the conference, and I quote from Harrison's article:-

"The conference was opened by HIM Prince Abdorreza, who read a personal message from HIM the Shah. This came to a dramatic conclusion when the Shah, expressing the great conviction of his country that man's natural environment must be protected for the good of all, went with an offer to place one of Iran's wetlands of special global significance in joint trust with a suitable international agency such as the United Nations Organisation, to be conserved for all mankind.

Such a gesture left everyone almost speechless and I certainly would not like to have had to find words adequate to express the feelings of all those present. This fell to Professor Geoffrey Matthews, Honorary Director of the IWRB, who rose to the occasion when he said: "We could not foresee that we were to be present at such an historic moment as this has become. The sheer magnificence of His Imperial Majesty's vision leaves us breathless. Iran has leapt to the forefront of the nations by being the first to take the giant stride of offering to share the sovereignty of a part of her territory with the international community for the purposes of conservation. This will indeed be seen as a turning point in man's endeavour to safeguard his environment."

There could have been no better start for the conference and it was now up to the delegates to finalise the text of the long-awaited convention. The purpose of this convention is that each ratifying state shall submit a list of its wetlands of international significance at the time of signing, which it will safeguard and endeavour to improve in co-operation with other states. If such a wetland is lost under very exceptional circumstances, then that state will endeavour to nominate a suitable replacement."

Harrison then finishes the article:-

"Without doubt conservation history was made at Ramsar, where those concerned with wildfowl showed how to get on together in this world, irrespective of politics or creed or the good of something we all believe in."

One can only hope that the laxidazical approach to wetland conservation in Nigeria may be given a spur by the results of the Ramsar conference, and that the various states conservators re-appraise the situation of areas such as Nguru, and various other localities in the Hadejia valley, as well as several of the major fadamas in North Eastern, North Central, Kano and North Western States, where the wholesale killing and trading in Nigerian protected birds continues, apparently unabated.

Finally one looks with pleasure at the Benue - Plateau State's move to afford complete protection to Nigeria's only breeding colony of the Rosy Pelican Pelecanus onocrotlatus on Wase Rock, even though the colony itself is inaccessible to all but the most experienced mountaineers. The move does, however, show a growing awareness of Nigeria's avifauna and I sincerely hope that the state will sponsor the research required to find out exactly where the pelicans feed during the breeding season (Dampar, on the Benue River has been cited) and really attempt some organised protection for this species at its most vulnerable time (i.e. on the feeding grounds).

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NOTES

TURACOS IN THE BENUE VALLEY

The area through which the Benue River and its tributaries flow contains southern guinea savanna vegetation, with patches of gallery forests along streams and also rain forest to the south and east of Takum and near the Cameroons border, south of Katsina Ala Division. The Turacos are a group of birds more often heard than seen except for the common Grey Plantain Eater. Their distribution follows the vegetation areas which the particular species favour. However, there is considerable overlapping of several species. Here are some notes on distribution of Turacos:

Guinea Turaco. Tauraco persa persa. The typical subspecies is found here. Location: Gallery forests near Benue River at Makurdi; Mkar mountain, near Gboko; southern Tiv areas in the mountains near the Cameroons border, that is, south and southwest of Jato Akaa. Seen also at Bete, 25 miles s.w. of Takum, 12 miles east of Takum; common in the forests around Bissaula (40 miles south of Takum) and eastward from there to Baissa. These last 2 areas are in Sardauna Province, N.E. State. The birds call kwa-kwa-kwa-kwa-kwa, often in unison. The call is very low-pitched.

Red-tip Crested Turaco. Tauraco macrorhynchus verreauxi. Occurs on the Obudu Plateau in montane forest. The call is a loud kwa-kwa-kwa-kwa-kwa, very low-pitched and described by Bannerman () as harsher than that of the Guinea Turaco.

White-crested Turaco. Tauraco leucolophus. This beautiful bird favours areas with less forest but rather wet guinea savanna. Therefore it only partly overlaps the distribution of the Guinea Turaco. It frequents gallery forest near streams and can be seen there occasionally together with the Violet Turaco. Seen near Ahobee, south of Jato Akaa, also Harga (23 miles west of Takum), all in Katsina Ala Division. At Takum, where I hear it call each morning and evening in the trees near Bika stream. South of Takum near the villages Lissam, Kpambo, Jenuwa Gida, 5-15 miles from here. Also at Bete, 25 miles s.w. Eastward from Takum along the Yola road to Kumbo, 26 miles east of Takum, and northward to Kofai, 13 miles on the road to Wukari. There the hills give way to flat land and lower rainfall, so I doubt that it is found further north. This bird does not occur in the Baissa hills area. But it is found at Serti, in Sardauna Province, N.E. State, 7°30'N., 11°20'E. Most surprisingly, I heard it in gallery forests at Warwar, on the Mambilla Plateau (elev. 4,500 ft.) on 23rd April 1971. The call is unmistakable and easily distinguished from that of the Guinea Turaco. It begins with a rising shout, hu-uu, followed by kwa-kwa-kwa-, kwa being repeated 6 to 18 times. This kwa is of a higher pitch from that of the Guinea Turaco.

Violet Turaco. Musophaga violacea. Found along streams in gallery forest or thick savanna bush in all parts of the 3 Tiv Divisions (Makurdi, Gboko, Katsina Ala), Wukari Division, Baissa hills and Serti, in Sardauna Province.

Great Blue Turaco. Corythaeola cristata. I have never seen this bird. One reliable informant tells me he has seen it near Baissa (Rev. R. Recker). And Mr. Allen Persenaire shot a specimen in 1969 in the gallery forest of the Konshisha River, Makurdi Division, 7°N., 8°30'E. This river flows into the Cross River and is not actually part of the Benue River system.

Grey Plantain Eater. Crinifer piscator. Widely distributed and common in all guinea savanna areas.

H.H. Gray.

SOME INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS FROM GHANA

Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax seen in a swamp close to Accra in March 1971.

West African Reef Heron Egretta grazetta gularis: observed holding out wings and chasing small fish in a lagoon near Temi in March 1971.

White Stork Ciconia ciconia: a bird killed by traffic in the north in January 1970 was found to be bearing a Spanish ring which was returned to the appropriate ministry.

Cassin's Hawk Eagle Hieraaetus africanus: in February 1971 a bird was seen high up in a tree in rather open country between Accra and Kumasi. The all white underparts except for two dark patches on the lower breast were clearly seen and a film was taken of the bird, which has exposed quite well and in my opinion confirms the identification. I would, however, like another opinion and hope to show it to Frank Walsh in the near future.

Swallow-tailed Kite Elanus riocourii: a single bird observed in the north (lat. 10°) in February 1970 was circling.

Osprey Pandion haliaetus: a single bird was seen making one or two false dives over a lagoon near Tema in March 1971.

African Crake Crex egregia: A solitary bird was observed in May 1971, in grassy land near the coast. The red eye very prominent against the grey cheeks.

Black Crake Limnecorax flavirostra: in March 1971 a single bird was seen in a swamp close to Accra.

Purple Gallinule Porphyrio porphyrio: A single bird observed in June 1971 in a swamp near Accra. The most prominent feature was the constant flicking of the tail which exposed the white feathers underneath.

Didric Cuckoo Chrysococcyx caprius: a youngster, identified by the "coral red" bill, was observed being fed by a female Village Weaver Ploceus cucullatus in an Accra garden in April 1971.

Black-throated Coucal Centropus leucogaster: a solitary bird was observed in thick bush within 20 miles of Accra in March 1971.

Black-bellied Coucal Centropus toulou: A single bird was seen on the Accra plains in May 1971.

Buff-headed Wood Hoopoe Phoeniculus bollei: a pair were seen in Ashanti in February 1971. The buff colour appeared to be on the face, forehead and throat only. The feet were reddish. Bannerman (1953, Birds of West and Equatorial Africa) also describes the nape as being buff, but this was not the case with the two birds seen by me. A further three birds were observed in June 1971 at the same location. The buff colour was again restricted as before which agrees with Bannerman's (o cit) description of the race okuensis, he considers however that this race is restricted to the Cameroons. Two of the birds had red bills and one a horn colour which could have been a youngster.

Grey-headed Bush Shrike Malaconotus blanchoti: seen on several occasions in an Accra garden in January 1971.

Shrike Flycatcher Megabyas flammulatus: In June 1971 a pair was seen in a tall tree at Bunso. The male being most prominent with all white underparts and white rump with black wings, tail and head.

Rufous-crowned Eremomela Eremomela badiceps: observed in a tall tree south of Kumasi in February 1971.

Buff-throated Sunbird Nectarinia adelberti: in March 1971 two pairs were seen in Kumasi gardens. The cream coloured throat being clearly defined from the rich brown underparts.

Yellow-mantled Weaver Ploceus tricolor: observed in February 1971 in tall trees in Ashanti.

Red-vented Weaver Malimbus scutatus: Seen completing nests in Royal Palms in Ashanti in February 1971.

R.A. Honeywell

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EARLY PALAEARCTIC WADERS AT KAINJI AND NEW BUSSA IN 1969

I previously gave records of six Palaearctic Wader species which were seen in the Kainji Dam area in August 1968 (Bull Niger. Orn. Soc. 5 (19): 64-65). A more intensive watch was kept during 1969, counts being carried out throughout the rainy season (summer) at the New Bussa Sewage Lagoons and along a 2 mile stretch of muddy lake shore at Kainji. Table I gives an indication of the wader species seen through the period April to September together with the numbers of counts made in the two habitats.

TABLE 1. Palaearctic Waders present at Kainji/New Bussa in 1969.

	APR		MAY		JUN		JUL		AUG		SEP	
	NB	K	NB	K	NB	K	NB	K	NB	K	NB	K
No. of Counts	17	3	26	5	33	2	40	8	46	11	33	6
Common S/piper	x	x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Wood S/piper	x	x	x	x					x	x	x	x
Green S/piper	x										x	
Greenshank			x	x			x		x			
Redshank							x		x			
Spotted R/shank	x											
Ruff	x	x		x					x			
Black-t. Godwit							x					
Common Snipe	x											x
Curlew S/piper											x	
Ringed Plover				x								
Black-w. Stilt	x		x	x			x	x				
Totals	7	3	3	6	0	0	2	5	2	5	4	3

Unfortunately the passage was very small and the individual and species fewer than in 1968. For completeness Stilt Himantopus himantopus records are included though these birds are probably not of Palaearctic origin.

From mid-May to mid-July no Palaearctic birds were seen. On the 18th July two Common Sandpipers Tringa hypoleucos were seen at the Sewage Lagoons and from that date were constantly present. On 19th July a single Common Sandpiper and a Redshank Tringa totanus were seen on the Lake shore. On the 25th July there was a small arrival of waders with six Common Sandpipers and single Greenshank Tringa nebularia, Redshank, Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa, and Stilt at Kainji. On the same date at New Bussa there were twelve Common Sandpipers and a Stilt. Weather was heavy overcast with considerable rain falling as drizzle throughout the day. Observations of the birds at Kainji were made in very poor conditions and it was not possible to decide whether any individuals were in breeding plumage. At New Bussa one of the Common Sandpipers appeared to have a dull grey lower breast and belly and another bird seen closely showed conspicuous barring on the upperparts. All records for July and August are listed in Table 2.

TABLE 2. Dates on which Palaearctic Waders were present.

(a) At Kainji.

Dates	Number of counts	Common S/p.	Wood S/p.	Greenshank	Redshank	Ruff	Black-t. Godwit	Black-w. Stilt
JUL.								
6 & 10	2	--	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
20	1	1						
25	1	6		1	1		1	1
27	1	7		2				
AUG. 3	1	12						
7	1				1			
10 & 15	2	2 & 5						
17	1	9		3				
18, 22, 23	3	1						
27	1	2		1				
29	1	8	3			1		
31	1	12						

(b) At New Bussa

JUL. 1-14	16							
18-24	9	1-2						
25	1	13						1
26-31	12	2-6						
AUG. 1-10	25	4-6						
11-13, 15	4	4-6	1					
16-30	16	1-5						
31	1	2	1					

The Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola present at New Bussa between 11th and 15th August and the Greenshank present at Kainji on 27th August were both in breeding plumage. The Ruff seen on 29th August had an almost pure white head and neck and was presumably a male in partial breeding dress. This bird was very wild and could not be approached at all closely. The period 27th-29th August was again one of heavy overcast and continuous drizzle.

The early arrival of these birds in the Kainji area clearly indicates a Saharan crossing. The presence of birds showing evidence of breeding plumage presumably precludes their having spent the summer further north in the tropics, though several Palaearctic waders including Black-tailed Godwit and Ruff Philomachus pugnax are known to do so (Dowsett, 1969, Bull. Niger. Orn. Soc. 6 (22): 39-45).

Frank Walsh.

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EDITORIAL.

Unfortunately I have again had to combine the material available to produce one, instead of two issues of the Bulletin for the second half of 1971, but hope in the coming year the situation will improve as several new members have appeared in West Africa over the past few months

The appearance of the reprinted Vol.1.(1964) has also been delayed owing to the typist who suffered a long illness whilst engaged in the work. It is, however, now all on stencils and will be produced in the near future.

The most important innovation in the Society is the appearance of a Production Secretary, Allan Cook, who has generously offered to take over the printing and distribution of the Bulletin in the future, and also the storage and organization of the back numbers of the Bulletin. In future, therefore, all enquiries and orders concerning past Bulletins should be sent to him at: Sokoto Teachers' College, Sokoto, Nigeria.

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CORRECTION:

For Skinner, J.H. read Skinner, N.J.

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NOTES ON SOME BIRDS SEEN AT BUEA AND ON MOUNT
CAMEROUN. 30 DEC. 1970 - JAN. 1971.

BY

L. Grimes.

Introduction

The information on the birds of the Camerouns incorporated in Dr. Bannerman's volumes on the Birds of West Africa (Bannerman 1931-51, 1953) is mainly based on skin collections. Since this work W. Serle (1950, 1954 and 1965) has published distribution and breeding notes on most of the birds and given details of his skin collection. During the years 1947-1951 and 1955-1957 he collected about 7,000 skins and in his final paper he writes "the list of resident birds in the lowland forest and the montane forest of West Cameroon is now probably fairly complete".

My main reason for visiting Buea was to have the experience of visiting a montane forest and observing some of the birds. It was very thrilling to slowly climb through the forest armed with a tape recorder and field glasses and try to absorb and identify the new sounds. There are numerous birds recorded on the tape which were not identified in the field and so the list that follows is a poor reflection of the species present. The field notes taken were found later to add to the known breeding season of several species including that of the Little Olive Weaver Nesocharis shelleyi. To a person familiar only with the birds of the Accra plains and lowland forests of Ghana it was surprising to hear some species in the montane forest whereas in Ghana they avoid the forest and have a much more restricted range.

The itinerary and brief description of the Mountain.

I arrived at Buea on the night of 29th Dec. and next day walked through the montane forest and reached a height of 2040 m in the grassland. I returned to Buea on the same day. On 31st Dec. I spent the day in the forest and slept at Hut 1 (1830 m) and returned slowly to Buea during the afternoon of 1 Jan. I used the tape recorder on both days and reached a height of 2150 m. in the grassland. On 2nd Jan. I spent several hours in the Eucalyptus plantation near the Upper Farm (1127 m) just above Buea. On 4th Jan. I returned to Hut 1 and spent the night there going on to Hut 2 (2780 m) the following morning. I reached this by 10.00 a.m. and spent a few hours watching the birds in an area of thicket some 60 yards S.W. of Hut 2. I returned to Buea the same day. C.G. Young (1946) stayed for a similar period on the mountain and published some of his field notes to which reference is made.

The path leading to the montane forest and mountain begins at the Upper Farm. Here there are cultivated fields of maize and some grazing for cattle. Immediately above this there is extensive thicket which is dense and many shrubs were flowering. The cloud layer begins at this level at this time of year and isolated clumps of the giant fern Cyathea manniana are present. This becomes extensive at about 1550 m but peters out by 1660 m. All trees above 1400 m are covered in mosses and lichens and in the open areas of the forest, especially at the lower elevations, are clumps of the tall reedy plants Costus and Aframomum. They are also present in certain areas of Buea. Bracken becomes prominent in the forest

near the border with the grassland but it is present in the forest just above Buea. Heights were measured using an aircraft altimeter and corrected by using the more precise values of the height of Hut 1 and Hut 2 as measured by G.M.D. Guillaume (1966).

The climb from the edge of the forest to Hut 2 is steep and there are only a few stunted trees (Agauria salicifolia). The grass is waist high at the lower levels and becomes short and stunted on the higher slopes. Hut 2 lies on a partial plateau and the trees are more numerous although still well separated. Some 60 yards S.W. of Hut 2 are two areas of thicket containing two flowering shrubs: a broom (Adenecarpus manii) and a giant member of the St. John's Wort family (Hypericum lanceolatum). These areas housed many birds and were connected vegetationally to the forest below by a thin strand of shrubs running up one of the many steep sided gullies. In these gullies the cover is thin but sufficient to allow birds to reach the thicker cover near Hut 2.

The list follows the order and names as given in the volumes of Bannerman (1953).

Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis: Present in the cultivated fields near the Upper Farm.

Black Kite Milvus migrans: Occasionally seen in the forest below the cloud layer and a few at Buea.

Red-tailed Buzzard Buteo auguralis: Two birds were regularly seen above the Upper Farm but below the forest belt but one bird was seen at Hut 2 on 5 January.

Scaly Francolin Francolinus squamatus: This was common around Buea and just above the Upper Farm.

Cameroun Mountain Francolin Francolinus camerunensis: Several francolins were heard in the forest above Hut 1 and based on the distribution notes of Serle (1965) were presumed to be this species.

Red-eyed Turtle Dove Streptopelia semitorquata: I was surprised to find this bird at Buea and also to hear it in the montane forest. My experience of this bird in Ghana is that it shuns the lowland forest and becomes common in more open country such as on certain areas of the Accra Plains.

Red-billed Wood-Dove Turtur afer: Only recorded at the Upper Farm.

Guinea Tauraco Tauraco persa: Common throughout the forest on the mountain.

Blue-Plantain-Eater Corythaecola cristata: Heard early in the morning at Hut 1, and calls heard again at dusk.

Emerald Cuckoo Chrysoccyx cupreus: One bird calling at height of 1850 m on 30 December, a few more at lower levels.

Didric Cuckoo Lampromorpha caprius: Frequently heard in the lower levels of the forest.

Klaas' Cuckoo Lampromorpha klaasi: One record of a bird calling at a height of 1530 m.

Mousebird Colius striatus: A common bird in the thickets above the Upper Farm but recorded throughout the forest up to Hut 1.

Palm Swift Cypsiurus parvus: Common at Buea.

Senegal Kingfisher Halcyon senegalensis: Recorded only at Buea.

White-throated Bee-eater Aerops albicollis: Frequently recorded in the lower levels of the forest (below 1380 m), descending to lower altitudes when clouds formed.

Naked-faced Barbet Gymnabucco calvus/peli: Either or both of these species were present in the lower levels of the mountain and found right up to the forest/grassland boundary.

Lemon-rumped Tinker-Bird Pogoniulus leucolaima: Present in the Eucalyptus plantation above Buea and throughout the range of the montane forest.

Green Woodpecker Mesopicos johnstoni: Two sight records above a height of 1830 m.

Blue-headed Wagtail Budytes flava: Seen in small numbers up to the cloud layer (about 1390 m), frequently perching in trees when disturbed.

Cameroun Mountain Pipit Anthus richardi: Several pipits were disturbed as I climbed the steep grass slopes just below Hut 2 and were presumed to be this species.

Bulbul Pycnonotus barbatus: Recorded at Buea and up to Hut 1. Young recorded them flying over the grass slopes just above the forest edge.

Grey throated Bulbul Arizelocichla tephrolaema: This is the common bulbul seen throughout the vertical range of the montane forest.

Pigmy Dusky Flycatcher Alseonax adjustus: Frequently met along the path from Buea to Hut 1. One bird was building a nest in a moss covered tree at about 1220 m.

Wattle-eye Platysteira cyanea: Although in Ghana this is a bird of the savanna, it occurred throughout the height range of the montane forest. Song was frequently heard and tape recorded.

Blue Fairy Flycatcher Erannomys longicauda: A single bird was seen regularly in the garden of the house in which I stayed in Buea. Another was seen in a wooded ravine in the Eucalyptus plantation.

Kurrichaine Thrush Turdus libonyanus: Birds were seen in open clearings in the montane forest, and were present at Hut 1. There was no song.

Mountain Stonechat Saxicola torquata: Present on the grassy slopes of the mountain below Hut 2. At Hut 2 several males were singing and holding territories. One female was observed carrying food and the pair was greatly agitated by my presence. Young makes no mention of breeding activities.

Mountain Robin Chat Cossypha isabellae: Very common throughout the height range of the forest. Young fledglings were present with older birds and appeared to be family parties. Serle (1950) found family parties and spotted young in June at Manengubu. A completed clutch found on 8 September was, he believed, out of season.

Fire-crested Alethe Alethe castanea: Seen at dusk in mixed feeding groups along the path below Hut 1.

Cameroun Mountain Scrub Warbler Bradypterus barratti: The song of this bird is loud and distinctive and made up of a repetition of one note, not unlike in form the song of the green-backed Camproptera. In the forest it looks a dark chocolate brown and is always on the move keeping close to the ground layer. Song was recorded at Hut 1 but also heard in the Eucalyptus plantation.

Cameroun Swamp-Warbler Bradypterus camerunensis: A few birds were resident in the high reedy grass areas near the General Hospital at Buea. The song was recorded and played back to the birds which brought them within 5 yards of the tape recorder. Evidently the birds were holding territories for they were heard each morning and evening from the same areas. When they are agitated there is a characteristic wing snapping when they make their short flights and while they flew they also sang. The wing snapping was also recorded on tape.

Jackson's Bush-Warbler Apalis jacksoni: One male was seen in the canopy at 1500 m.

Green Longtail Urolais epichlora: A common bird in the Eucalyptus plantation as well as the montane forests. Very active while feeding and frequently in song.

White-tailed Warbler Poliolais lopesi: A fairly common bird with a short but very beautiful song. Seen in the Eucalyptus plantation but also throughout the height range of the forest. The bird generally keeps to the lower thicket but occasionally forages for short distances up the sides of trees.

Chattering Grass Warbler Cisticola anonyma: A common bird in the short grass areas and open waist areas at Buea. Ascending only to about 1090 m.

Brown-backed Grass Warbler Cisticola discolor: Common from the level of the Upper Farm throughout the forest. Could be heard singing in the ravines as I climbed the grass land and again several pairs singing in the thickets near to Hut 2. Around Hut 1 there were at least 3 pairs holding territories. Both birds and frequently a third may join in the singing. The song of a pair appears to be synchronized.

European Swallow Hirundo rustica: Present at the Upper Farm.

Rough Winged Swallow Psalidoprocne fuliginosa: A common bird found near the water fall above Buea, throughout the forest and seen again at 2780 m at Hut 2. Young also recorded a similar height distribution.

Mackinnons Grey Shrike Lanius mackinnoni: Present in gardens at Buea and in the lower slopes of the mountain below the cloud layer.

Yellow-breasted Shrike Laniarius atroflavus: Common in the forest areas up to the border with the grasslands. The calls and the answers of the second bird of a pair are remarkably similar in structure and form to that of Laniarius barbarus.

Black Mountain Boubou Lanarius poensis: During early morning and late afternoon the calls of this bird were frequently heard around Hut 1 and at lower heights in the forest.

Sooty Boubou Laniarius leucorhynchus: Birds thought to be of this species were seen in the thickets just above Buea but before the forest began.

Oriolus species On several occasions oriole call notes were heard but the birds were not seen.

Pied Crow Corvus alba: Occasionally seen at Buea.

Splendid Glossy Starling Lamprocolius splendidus: Several birds seen flying high over Buea in the early morning. Was first attracted by the very raucus call notes. Single birds were seen in trees near the administrative buildings above Buea. The white eye and call note are very distinctive field characteristics.

Preuss's Mountain Starling Onychognathus walleri: A group of three birds seen in the high canopy of about 1480 m.

Green White-eye Zosterops virens: Frequently seen in small parties in the forest around about the level of 1900 m.

Black-capped Speirops Speirops lugubris: An unusual bird found in small parties in thickets near Hut 2. The picture in Bannerman does not do the bird justice. In the field the striking feature is the strong dagger like bill and the various shades of grey of the plumage. The head looks as if it has a grey black cap and the face is of a much lighter grey. The bill is a grey white as well as the legs appearing as if the colour had faded. The white throat extends a little way down the central breast and this is flanked with grey. They have a rattling call note. The bill is quite dagger like and the bird frequently stabbed at the back of the shrubs while hanging upside down. The white feathers around the eye are by no means as prominent in the field as Bannerman suggests.

Double-collared Sunbird Cinnyris reichenowi: Present from Buea right through the forest up to Hut 2 at 2780 m. A very common bird with males singing everywhere. Two nests (one with 2 eggs and the other with 2 young) were found overhanging the path leading through the forest. Very common at the open area around Hut 1, frequently perching on the buildings as well as on low shrubs. Very pugnacious and there is much chasing of other males. Birds were confined to the thicket areas near Hut 2 associating with Speirops, Oriole-finch and the Black and Yellow Weaver.

Blue-headed Sunbird Cyanomitra oritis Recorded near Hut 1 at 1830 m and also in the Eucalyptus Plantation above Buea.

Collared Sunbird Antheptes collaris: Present at Buea in gardens of houses and also on the lower slopes of the mountain just above the Upper Farm.

Olive-backed Sunbird Cyanomitra verticalis: Present in gardens at Buea regularly visiting flowering shrubs at dawn each day.

Olive-bellied Sunbird Cinnyris chloropygius: Found at Buea and in flowering shrub area above the Upper Farm.

Grosbeak Seed-Eater Poliospiza burtoni: Seen only above or near Hut 1, Song was recorded near Hut 1 and two birds seen feeding on two separate mornings in the same tree at about 1950 m.

Oriole-finch Linurgus olivaceus: Very common from the lower levels just above Buea (Eucalyptus plantation), through the forest and in the thickets at Hut 2 (2780 m). Males were singing throughout the forest. A female was watched building a nest low down in a small tree just before the forest level (1350 m). The male accompanied the female while she collected material and sang near the nest site while she built the nest. Scrle found gonads enlarged in October and November but according to Bannerman (1953) breeding continues until January.

Grey headed Sparrow Passer griseus: Present at Buea.

Baglafecht Weaver Othyphantes baglafecht: Males and females were in full breeding dress and two nests were found. The ring of one nest was in the fron of a giant fern at 1600 m. The female was nearby while the male built the nest. She frequently visited the ring while he was away. On one occasion while the female was at the ring the male visited the nest and displayed hanging upside down from the bottom of the ring. There was a little wing beating but not as intense as in others of the Ploceus group (e.g. Village Weaver). Another nest was found near Hut 1 which had the outer fabric complete and was suspended from a shrub. The nest had a suggestion of a spout with the entrance near the top. Bannerman (1953) mentions nests only for September and October.

Black Mountain Weaver Heterophantes melanogaster: Present in the Eucalyptus Plantation above Buca, at 1500 m and at Hut 1. A male was constructing a nest in a "fir" tree in front of Hut 1, but was not observed to display at the nest. The female only visited the nest after the male had left it. Bannerman (1953) mentions some breeding data but gives no details of period.

Vieillot's Black Weaver Melanopteryx nigrerrimus: At least two colonies in Eucalyptus trees in the Administrative area of Buca. Nests were being constructed and coition was observed. Adults frequently feeding in corn fields near the Upper Farm.

Uganda Spectacled Weaver Hyphanturgus ocularius: A family group visited the garden of the house in which I stayed each morning. The shrill tremulous song is distinctive and was recorded on tape. Also heard at Hut 1.

Black and Yellow Bishop Euplectes capensis: Throughout the grassland area and up to Hut 2. Males were in breeding dress and coition was observed.

Yellow-mantled Wydah Coliuspasser macrourus: Adult male in breeding plumage seen at Buca.

Blue-billed Mannikin Spermestes poenis: Several pairs seen in the lower slopes of the forest.

Grey-crowned Negro-finch Nigrita canicapilla: Song frequently heard throughout the lower range of the montane forest.

Blue-billed Weaver Spermophaga haematina: One pair in the Eucalyptus plantation and one again at about 1830 m in the montane forest.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill Estrilda melpoda: Only found at Buea in the cultivated maize fields near the Upper Farm.

Black crowned Waxbill Estrilda nonnula: A very common waxbill seen at Buea and upwards through the forest to the shrubs at Hut 2. Bannerman (1953) mentions 2438 m (8000ft) as the limit of the height range.

Little Olive Weaver Nesocharis shelleyi: A beautiful small weaver seen first at a height of 1350 m but found up to 1800 m or more. A nest containing 3 small white eggs was found at 1730 m. At first I thought it was a sunbirds nest as it was similar in size and structure and suspended from the end of an overhanging branch. Visits on subsequent days proved the clutch to be 3 eggs. It was only on the last day that the incubating female was seen leaving the nest.

Pintailed Wydah Vidua macroura: One male in full breeding plumage was seen regularly in the lower levels of the first.

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SOKOTO PROVINCE

(2) Wurno ($13^{\circ} 15' N$, $05^{\circ} 25' E$)

By

P.J. Mundy & A.W. Cook

Wurno is 25 miles N.E. of Sokoto along a fairly good laterite road. The town itself is built on fossil-rich sedimentary rocks, and is south of the Rima fadama. A mile-long raised track continues eastward from the town, and leads directly to the artificial wall that serves to hold Wurno lake.

The lake is now about 6 sq. miles in area, and is approx. 6 miles long and 1 mile wide. During the year the water level drops about 10 feet, and then large grassy areas are exposed near to the wall. The excess water for irrigation escapes through a spillway. Downstream of the wall are large areas of irrigated crops, particularly rice, onions and carrots. The rice supports hundreds of duck and thousands of weavers, especially Queleas and Yellow Crowned Bishops. Throughout the dry season two marshy pools remain in the downstream part, whereas during and after the rains this whole area comes under nearly 6 feet of water.

The vegetation cover is meagre, there being a very small number of trees dotted about. In the lake immediately to the north of the spillway is a fairly substantial area of shrub and grass, especially tussocks, which is the first part to be exposed when the water level starts falling.

We have visited Wurno lake several times throughout the year since February 1970, and to date (July 1971) we have noted 89 species there, of which 26 are Palearctic migrants. John Broadbent and his wife went there in April 1971 and observed another 5 species of which 3 were migrant (pers. comm.). In his recent article, Sir F.W. Pedler (1970) recorded another 2 species (definitely) of which one was a migrant. Hence one third of the bird varieties are winter migrants, and it can be seen that the new lake is having a great influence on the passage of these birds. It should be said that almost all the migrant species mentioned here have been recorded along the two rivers very close to Sokoto town, where indeed we have seen more; but this effect is probably due to more frequent observation around Sokoto than at Wurno.

Our major regret is that we haven't as yet been able to visit the far side of the lake.

Pelecaniformes:

The Long-tailed Shag Phalacrocorax africanus is always present, once numbering 50 in November. The Grey Pelican Pelecanus rufescens is present whilst breeding in Sokoto town (i.e. August to March).

Ciconiiformes:

A large variety, though we have never seen the Goliath Heron Ardea goliath recorded by Pedler (op. cit.). Grey Heron A. cinerea, Black-headed A. melanocephala, Purple A. purpurea (no significant increase in numbers during the northern winter), African Great White Egretta alba, Little Egret E. garzetta, Cattle Egret Ardeola ibis, Squacco A. ralloides, Green-backed Butorides striatus, African Little Bittern Ixobrychus minutus are always present.

The Wood Ibis Ibis ibis is occasional, numbering 40 in July, of which only 5 were in the fully adult pink plumage. The Sacred Ibis Threskiornis aethiopica and the West African Hadada Bostrychia hagedash are normally present, both occurring in groups of about 50 in November. One Glossy Ibis Plegadis falcinellus was seen in April (Broadbent). The Open Bill Stork Anastomus lamelligerus is a dry season visitor (actually seen in February and March), in numbers of 4 or 5.

Anseriformes:

As the lake is too large to see flocks of duck easily, and their toleration distance is, when we are in a boat, about 200 yards we have been singularly unsuccessful in identifying many. Of the 16 species that Bannerman (1953) states visit the area, we have seen eight. Garganey Anas querquedula are very numerous, especially amongst the rice. Pintail A. acuta were scarce last dry season. The White-faced Duck Dendrocygna viduata is common during the wet season, but the Fulvous Duck D. bicolor has only been seen in November (about 50 birds). All the geese are present at one time or another, the Pygmy Nettapus auritus occasionally, the Knob-bill Sarkidiornis melanota in the dry season (especially February to beginning of July when there were at least 50), the Egyptian Alopochen aegyptiaca in April (Broadbent) and July, and the Spurwing Plectropterus gambensis throughout the year with about 200 feeding on the exposed grass on July 1st.

Falconiformes:

The Hooded Vulture Neophron monachus, Black Kite Milvus migrans, and Black-shouldered Kite Elanus caeruleus are resident in small numbers, the Black Kite nesting there. We always see about 10 Black-shouldered Kites. The Abyssinian Lanner Falco biarmicus, Red-necked Falcon F. chicquera and Chanting Goshawk Melierax metabates are rarely seen.

The Palearctic migrants visiting Wurno are the European Kestrel F. tinnunculus, Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus, "ringtail" harriers (one male of the Pale Harrier C. macrourus seen) and Osprey Pandion haliaetus (once only in March).

Galliformes:

The Bush Fowl Francolinus bicalcaratus was seen once in July before the rains.

Ralliformes:

The African Moorhen, Gallinula chloropus is always seen especially in November when the place is marshy. The Black Crake Limnocolax flavirostris and Allen's Gallinule Porphyrio alleni are rarely seen.

Gruiformes:

The Lilytrotter Actophilornis africana is always very numerous. Despite careful observation we have never seen a Lesser Lilytrotter Microparra capensis.

Charadriiformes:

The Spurwing Plover Vanellus spinosus is a fairly numerous resident. The dry season visitors are many, but without doubt the commonest is the Ruff Philomachus pugnax in its thousands. Their legs vary in colour from greenish to orange and we are sure that these are the birds that Pedler (op. cit.) observed. The flocks are interesting to watch wheeling about as one. Some individuals (2 or 3 per 1,000) are very white in colour, though not albinos.

A few individuals of the Lesser Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius, Little Stint Calidris minuta, Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus, Common Sandpiper Tringa hypoleucos, Wood T. glareola, Green T. ochropus, Marsh T. stagnatilis and Greenshank T. nebularia are present during the northern winter. The Redshank T. totanus, Dusky Redshank T. erythropus, Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa and Common Snipe Gallinago gallinago are seen less frequently. The Stilt (3), Greenshank (30), Marsh Sandpiper (20), Dusky Redshank (5 black birds) and Black-tailed Godwit (10 but not in summer plumage) were seen on July 1st. We have not seen the Curlew Sandpiper Calidris ferruginea observed by Pedler (op. cit.).

The Egyptian Plover Pluvianus aegyptius is common outside the wet season.

6 Lesser Black-backed Gulls Larus fuscus were seen on the open water on March 19.

Although we have difficulty with terns the West African Little Tern Sterna albifrons is regularly seen, and the White-winged Black Tern (?) S. leucoptera in March.

Columbiformes:

The Speckled Pigeon Columba guinea and Niger Mourning Dove Streptopelia decipiens are residents. The Namaqua Oena capensis is present in twos or threes during the dry season. The Black-billed Wood Dove Turtur abyssinicus was seen once in March.

Strigiformes:

The Marsh Owl Asio capensis has been seen in March (group of 8) and July (1).

Cuculiformes:

The Senegal Coucal Centropus senegalensis is resident in small numbers.

Cypseliformes:

The Palm Swift Cypsiurus parvus is resident.

Coraciiformes:

The Abyssinian Roller Coracias abyssinica is present in small numbers throughout the dry season.

The Pied Kingfisher Ceryle rudis is resident, always about 10 being seen. The Malachite Alcedo cristata was seen once in April (Broadbent).

The Least Bee-eater Merops pusillus is resident. The Carmine M. nubicus seems to be a dry season bird, especially common in April. We have never seen the Red-throated Bee-eater M. bullocki closer to Sokoto than Lake Natu (60 miles south).

Passeriformes:

The following are resident - Crested Lark Galerida cristata, Zitting Cisticola C. juncidis, Ethiopian Swallow Hirundo aethiopica, Pied Crow Corvus albus, Blue-eared Glossy Starling Lamprolornis chalybaeus, Grey-headed Sparrow Passer griseus, Village Weaver Ploceus cucullatus, Black-faced lioch Quelea quelea, Orange and Yellow-crowned Bishops Euplectes afer and orix, Silverbill Lonchura malabrica and Senegal Firefinch Lagonosticta senegala. The Chestnut-backed Finch Lark Eremopterix leucotis, Ant Chat Myrmecocichla aethiops, Piapiac Ptilostomus afer, Chestnut-bellied Starling Spreo pulcher, Rock Bunting Emberiza tahapisi, Quail Finch Ortygospiza atricollis and Black-rumped Waxbill Estrilda troglodytes are rarely seen.

The following migrants visit the area - Yellow Wagtail Motacilla flava (hundreds, though we haven't found a roost), Wheatear O. oenanthe (very few), Sedge and Reed warblers Acrocephalus schoenobaenus and scirpaceus (Broadbent), Sand Martin Riparia riparia (only seen in Nov. and presumably the European) and Woodchat Lanius senator (regularly).

We have never seen the Pied-winged Swallow Hirundo leucosoma anywhere near Sokoto and suggest that the sight record (by Pedler op. cit.) could have been the European House Martin Delichon urbica. Similarly, every Oxpecker Baphagus africanus seen around Sokoto, though we haven't seen them at Wurno, has the usual yellow and red bill. We don't believe that any of the East African variety come this far, and suggest that an all-red bill was an effect of the red sunsets we often get here.

SOKOTO PROVINCE

3. KOTORKOSHI (12° 07' N, 06° 48' E)

By

P.J. Mundy & A.W. Cook

This village is on the Zaria-Sokoto road, about 100 miles N. of Zaria. Behind the village, i.e. to the E., is a series of inselbergs forming an impressive backdrop. The one immediately to the E. is the highest and largest, approximately oval in shape with a "crater" in the middle. There are several screes around the perimeter and all offer precarious hold to a large number of trees and shrubs, which together form a fair amount of vegetational cover. There is a permanent spring at the base of the rock on its W. side near the tiny village of Kura.

This whole area, especially the large inselberg, provides a habitat for a number of very interesting birds and here we consider eight of them. In addition there are resident bands of Baboon (up to 20 individuals) and Red Patas monkey.

Abdim Stork Ciconia abdimii: arrives by the beginning of June. On 9th August we counted about 40 nests in baobab trees growing in the compounds of Kura. The stork is always seen at Talata Mafara (80 miles towards Sokoto) throughout the wet season (June-September there) and odd individuals even reach Sokoto itself for a day or two, presumably from this colony. In 1970 we saw the first stork in Sokoto on 26th June and in 1971 on 28th June.

Ruppell's Griffon Gyps ruppellii: we have watched this bird in February of 1970 and 1971. It nests on the precipice forming the West face of the inselberg, overlooking Kotorkoshi itself and almost directly underneath the trig. point. In both years we counted about 25 birds and this year we saw 3 fluffy chicks, but unfortunately our photographs were of poor quality. Next season we hope to reach the nest sites themselves by rope. Thirty years ago Dr. Serle (1943) recorded about 100 of these vultures on the rock.

Apparently the locals regard the birds as palatable and do shoot them on occasions, and we have seen griffon wings on the "medicine - and - magic" stall in Sokoto market. They also say that the vulture is resident throughout the year but we have never seen it in the wet season.

Whilst brooding, the adults stand over their young with outspread wings to protect them against the strong sun. They easily chase off any ambitious Pied Crow Corvus albus or Fox Kestrel Falco alopec.

Fox Kestrel Falco alopec: perhaps three pairs are resident here and come to holes in the cliff face, one of which is very near to the griffons' site. They seem to spend a lot of time perched on the rocks,

and also on trees in the early morning.

Stone Partridge Ptilopachus petrosus: always many (up to 50) seen or heard. However to pinpoint their whereabouts is difficult as their calls reverberate around the rock masses so much. On one occasion in February we watched 2 separate groups, of about a dozen birds each, meet on a face and they both set up a tremendous clamour for several minutes. They then disappeared in opposite directions.

Violet Plantain Eater Musophaga violacea: always 2 or 3 fleetingly seen in the trees on the North scree.

White-crowned Cliff Chat Myrmecocichla cinnamomeiventris: always a few seen, especially around the water at the spring. In February we have seen their most active behaviour - males chasing females and displaying around them (i.e. flying and dancing). Is this courtship - though it would be rather early for the genus?

Red-throated Rock Martin Hirundo fuligula: always many seen gliding along the faces and softly tweetering. They are best viewed from above.

Neumann's Chestnut-winged Starling Onycognathus morio: often up to 25 are seen flying from one end of the rock to the other through the trees on the North scree. Frequently they cling to the rock face. They are difficult to watch owing to their habit of flying a long distance at one go. Consequently we have not seen any courtship or nesting behaviour. They seem to be resident here throughout the year.

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A RECORD OF SOME BIRDS OBSERVED ON A TOUR OF DAHOMEY AND NIGER

BY

Netta Robinson

On June 4th, 1971 I accompanied my husband on a working tour of Dahomey and Niger. We were on the road for three weeks. From Lome we travelled east to Cotonou and then North through Parakou and Angara-Debou to cross the Niger at Malanville to Gaya and on to Niamey. From Niamey we headed east through Dosso, Dogondoutchi and Birni N'Konni to Galmi

and then turned north to Tahoua. From Tahoua we set course through Keita and Madoua to Maradi and then east again to Zinder - the extent of our schedule.

The vegetation zones encountered were namely woodland savanna, thorn scrub and sahel savanna. Outward bound the places through which we passed and visited had experienced little or no rain but on the return trip from Zinder to Niamey it was apparent that some rain had fallen, notably between Birni N'Konni and Dosso. The sparse foliage showed a haze of green.

A greater number of birds were seen on this trip than are listed here. Included are only those whose specific identity is certain. FALCONIDAE is excluded altogether apart from the ubiquitous Milvus migrans, as insufficient familiarity with this group made spot identifications whilst on the move difficult and indefinite. With only one night spent in most places there was not the opportunity to record more than the more common species. ANGARA-DEBOU (Lat. 11° 19' north) in Northern Dahomey is rich in individuals and species and time spent in this area would be of the utmost interest. Coracias abyssinica and Ciconia abdimii were observed constantly from Gaya. Oena capensis seen constantly north of Dosso. Ploceus luteolus is a species which it is tempting to record - from Galmi, Maradi and Niamey, but diagnostic uncertainty between P. luteolus and P. pelzelni debars it from the list. Ploceus luteolus is depicted on the 45F Niger stamp which would seem to indicate its frequency. The habitat was not typical of the environment preferred by Ploceus pelzelni according to Bannerman (1953). Included with reasonable certainty now is Passer simplex - the small rather pied little bird observed so frequently on the road north of Dosso en route to Galmi and Tahoua.

Great White Heron Egretta alba: Observed on 8/6 on sandbank of Niger at Niamey.

Yellow-billed Egret Egretta intermedia: At Tessoua on 15/6 and on the road between Zinder and Galmi on 17/6.

Reef Heron Egretta garzetta: 1 bird observed on 8/6 en route between Angara Debou and Niamey: a few birds seen on sandbank of Niger at Niamey on 8/6.

Cattle Egret Ardeola ibis: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 7/6, when a flock of approx. 100 birds were seen to be roosting in a tree in the village: on 8/6 on sandbank of Niger at Niamey: at Maradi on 13/6: between Zinder and Galmi on 17/6: at Niamey as above on 19/6 (fewer birds than on 8/6): at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Abdins Stork Ciconia abdimii: On 8/6 numbers observed en route between Angara-Debou and Niamey and at Niamey on sandbank of Niger: at Tahoua on 11/6: at Maradi on 13/6: at Tessoua on 15/6 where 11 nests were counted in one tree in town centre, 11 birds sitting, bills wide agape in the noonday heat; many other nests were seen with sitting birds in other parts of the town: between Zinder and Galmi on 17/6: at Niamey on 19/6, 1 bird only.

White-faced Duck Dendrocygna viduata: Recorded at Niamey on 8/6 and 19/6: in flight up and downstream of Niger.

White-headed Vulture Trigonoceps occipitalis: Recorded at Marriah, 20 KM South of Zinder on 16/6, a pair.

Common Vulture Neophron monachus: Numbers of this species observed at Zinder on 16/6.

Black Kite Milvus migrans: On 8/6 seen frequently en route between Angara-Debou and Niamey.

Lily Trotter Actophilornis africana: On 8/6 on sandbank of Niger at Niamey and also on 19/6: on the Niger at Gaya on 22/6.

Spur-winged Plover Vanellus spinosus: Recorded on 8/6 on sandbank of Niger at Niamey: on 22/6 on the Niger at Gaya.

Speckled Pigeon Columba guinea: Recorded at Galmi on 10/6.

Senegal Dove Streptopelia senegalensis: Observed at Galmi on 10/6, drinking water from the overflow pipe from our bathroom: at Maradi on 13/6: at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Long-tailed Dove Oena capensis: Recorded at Maradi on 13/6: at Zinder on 16/6.

Yellow-bellied Fruit Pigeon Treron waalia: Recorded at Parakou on 6/6: at Angara-Debou on 7/6: at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Senegal Parrot Poicephalus senegalus: A party of this species feeding and flying noisily from tree to tree at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Grey Plantain Eater Crinifer piscator: Seen at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Didric Cuckoo Chrysococcyx caprius: Seen at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Senegal Coucal Centropus senegalensis: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6: at Save on 24/6.

Little African Swift Apus affinis: A record at Zinder on 16/6.

Abyssinian Roller Coracias abyssinica: Observed on 8/6 en route between Angara-Debou and Niamey: on the 17/6 between Zinder and Galmi.

Guinea Wood-Hoopoe Phoeniculus purpureus: A record of this species, 3 birds, on 17/6 between Zinder and Galmi.

Grey-headed Kingfisher Halcyon leucocephala: A recording of 1 bird at Niamey on 20/6. A sizable thunder storm and heavy rain occurred in the evening of 19/6.

White-throated Bee-eater Merops albicollis: At Tessoua on 15/6: at Zinder on 16/6.

Least Bee-eater Merops pusillus: 1 bird seen in the grounds of Hotel Le Sahel, Niamey on 8/6 and 19/6.

Red-throated Bee-eater Merops bullocki: Observed at Angara-Debou on 7/6 and 22/6.

Red-beaked Hornbill Tockus nasutus: A pair seen at Maradi on 13/6.

West African Barbet Lybius vielloti: Seen between Zinder and Galmi on 17/6.

Fine-spotted Wood pecker Campethera punctuligera: A pair seen at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Black-cap Babbler Turdoides reinwardii: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Common Bulbul Pycnonotus barbatus: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 7/6 and 22/6.

Kurrichane Thrush Turdus pelios: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6 and at Save on 24/6, also at Parakou on 6/6.

Glossy-backed Drongo Dicrurus adsimilis: Recorded at Parakou on 6/6: at Maradi on 13/6.

Long-crested Helmet Shrike Prionops plumata: A party seen on 24/6 at Save.

Long-tailed Shrike Corvinella corvina: Recorded at Parakou on 6/6.

Barbary Shrike Laniarius barbarus: At Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Brown-necked Raven Corvus ruficollis: Numbers seen at Tahoua on 11/6.

Pied Crow Corvus albus: In Niamey near to the Niger on 7/6 and 8/6: and at 19/6: Zinder on 16/6: on the Niger at Gaya on 22/6.

Black Magpie Ptilostomus afer: On sandbank of Niger at Niamey on 8/6: on the Niger at Gaya 22/6.

Purple-glossy Starling Lamprolornis purpureus: Recorded at Dosso on 8/6: at Maradi on 13/6: between Zinder and Galmi on 17/6.

Chestnut-bellied Starling Spreo pulcher: Recorded at Maradi on 13/6: between Zinder and Galmi on 17/6.

Beautiful Long-tailed Sunbird Nectarinia pulchella: Observed at Zinder on 16/6: at Niamey on 20/6.

Splendid Sunbird Nectarinia coccinigaster: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 7/6 and on 22/6.

Carmelite Sunbird Nectarinia fuliginosa: Recorded on 4/6 at Cotonou.

Scarlet-breasted Sunbird Nectarinia senegalensis: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Violet-backed Sunbird Anthreptes longuemarei: 1 bird seen at Agara-Debou on 22/6.

Saharan House-Bunting Emberiza striolata: Recorded at Galmi on 10/6: at Maradi on 13/6.

Grey-headed Sparrow Passer griseus: Recorded at Galmi on 10/6: at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Buffalo Weaver Bubalornis albirostris: Recorded at Maradi on 13/6, feeding on ground in company with Spreo pulcher.

Village Weaver Ploceus cucullatus: Seen at Galmi on 10/6: at Maradi on 13/6: at Zinder on 16/6: at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Bronze Mannikin Lonchura cucullata: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Cut-throat Weaver Amadina fasciata: Recorded at Galmi on 10/6.

Senegal Fire-Finch Lagonostica senegala: Recorded at Galmi on 10/6: at Maradi on 13/6: at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Bar-breasted Fire-Finch Lagonostica rufopicta: Recorded at Zinder on 16/6.

Red-cheeked Cordon-Blue Estrilda bengala: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill Estrilda melopoda: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Senegal Combassou Vidua chalybeata: Recorded at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

Pin-tailed Whydah Vidua macroura: Recorded at Cotonou on 4/6: at Angara-Debou on 22/6.

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FURTHER NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF MAMBILLA PLATEAU

By

H.H. Gray

On 22nd and 23rd April, 1971, I visited the Mambilla Plateau in the southern corner of North-East State to see the medical work of the Mambilla Baptist Mission there. Also, I spent part of one day at Serti, 30 miles north of the Plateau. The elevation at Serti is about 1,500 feet. The vegetation there is of wet guinea savanna type, with some forest

trees near streams. Birds seen at Serti are similar to those in other guinea savanna areas. Here is a list of Serti birds:

Long-tailed Cormorant Phalacrocorax africanus - 1 at Kam River.
 African Green-backed Heron Butorides striatus - 1 at Kam River.
 Abdim's Stork Ciconia abdimii flock of 12.
 Hooded Vulture Neophron monachus
 Red-necked Buzzard Buteo auguralis
 Black Kite Milvus migrans
 Black-shouldered Kite Elanus caeruleus
 Fish Eagle Haliaeetus vocifer: 1 at Kam River
 Double-spurred Francolin Francolinus bicalcaratus
 Wattled Plover Vanellus seregallus: 4 at Serti airfield
 Egyptian Plover Pluvianus aegyptius at Kam River
 Grey Pratincole Glareola cinerea: 1 at Kam River
 Red-eyed Dove Streptopelia semitorquata
 Vinaceous Dove Streptopelia vinacea
 Blue-spotted Wood-Dove Turtur afer
 Green Pigeon Treron australis
 White-crested Turaco Tauraco leucolophus at Serti & Kam River
 Grey Plantain Eater Crinifer piscator
 African Cuckoo Cuculus canorus
 Senegal Coucal Centropus senegalensis
 Little Swift Apus affinis
 Palm Swift Cypsiurus parvus
 Pied Kingfisher Ceryle rudis at Kam River
 Grey-headed Kingfisher Halcyon leucocapala from Serti to Mayo Selbe
 Abyssinian Roller Coracias abyssinica: 1 seen
 Senegal Hoopoe Upupa epops: 1 seen
 Grey Hornbill Tockus nasutus
 Yellow-fronted Tinker-bird Pogoniulus chrysoconus
 Buff-spotted Woodpecker Campethera nivos
 Ethiopian Swallow Hirundo aethiopica
 Mosque Swallow Hirundo senegalensis
 Shari Rough-winged Swallow Psallidoprocne pristoptera
 Blue-headed Wagtail Motacilla flava flava
 Long-crested Helmet Shrike Prionops plumata
 Black-crowned Tchagra Tchagra senegala
 Bell Shrike Laniarius ferrugineus
 Purple Glossy Starling Laprotornis purpureiceps
 Amethyst Starling Cinnyricinclus leucogaster
 Common Bulbul Pycnonotus barbatus
 Yellow-throated Leaf-love Chloricichla flavicollis
 Simple Leaf-love Chloricichla simplex - at banks of Kam River,
 singing in bushes
 Sudan Brown Babbler Turdoides plebeja
 White-fronted Ant-Chat Myrmecocichla albifrons
 Green-backed Eremomela Eremomela pusilla
 Scarlet-spectacled Flycatcher Platysteira cyanea

Blue Fairy Flycatcher Trochocercus longicauda
White-shouldered Black Tit Parus leucomelas
Splendid Sunbird Nectarinia coccinigaster
Green White-eye Zosterops senegalensis
Yellow-fronted Canary Serinus mozambicus
Village Weaver Ploceus cucullatus
Yellow-mantled Whydah Euplectes macrourus
Greyheaded Sparrow Passer griseus
Orange-cheeked Waxbill Estrilda melpoda
Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu Estrilda bengala
Senegal Fire-Finch Lagonosticta senegala
Bronze Mannikin Lonchura cucullata

Birds between Mayo Selbe and top of Plateau, along route of escarpment road, elevations 2000 to 4000 feet, along 9 miles of road:

Solitary Cuckoo Cuculus solitarius
Bar-breasted Mousebird Colius striatus
Lesser Wood-Hoopoe Phoeniculus aterrimus
Lemon-rumped Tinker Bird Pogoniulus leucolaima - species
identification not certain, could also be P. subsulphureus
Shari Roughwinged Swallow Psalidoprocne pristoptera
Square-tailed Rough-Winged Swallow Psalidoprocne nitens
Singing Bush-Warbler Cisticola cantans

Birds on the Mambilla Plateau:

The journey from the northern edge of the Plateau, at Tungan Amadu, south to Gembu, the Divisional Headquarters town, is 45 miles. From there a steep road descends down to the Donga River, and we crossed by poled barge and travelled on a very steep mountain track to Warwar, 14 miles south-east of Gembu. Birds seen on the Plateau listed here are additions to the list of H. Boulter (1965 N.O.S. Bull. 1, (4): 17-18) and D. Ebbutt and D.E. Macgregor (1965 N.O.S. Bull. 1, (5): 19-20). Most of the birds in these lists I saw also, including:

Ruppel's Griffon Gyps ruppellii: 1 at Mai Samari
White-backed Vulture Pseudogyps africanus at Mai Samari & Warwar
Secretary Bird Sagittarius serpentarius: 1 near Guroje
Denham's Bustard Neotis denhami: 2 near Guroje

One further comment: Abdim's Stork, Ciconia abdimii is very numerous, and I saw over 1,000 on the journey. These storks associate with herds of cows. The previous observers were on the Plateau in the dry season, so the storks probably had not yet arrived in full numbers.

New Records for Mambilla Plateau:

European Stork Ciconia ciconia 2 seen near Mai Samari on 23rd April, 1971, with a group of Abdim's Storks, Ciconia abdimii.
Bannerman describes the last date for the European Stork in West Africa as 30th March.

Black-headed Heron Ardea melanocephala: 2 seen
Cattle Egret Ardeola ibis: 12 seen
Bateleur Terathopius ecaudatus: 1 near Guroje
Red-necked Buzzard Buteo auguralis: 3 near Mai Samari
Black Kite Milvus migrans: 3 seen
Lanner Falco biarmicus common
Grey Kestrel Falco ardosiaceus a few
Guinea Fowl Numida meleagris: 6 near Warwar
Senegal Coucal Centropus senegalensis near Warwar
White-crested Turaco Tauraco leucolophus: 2 heard at Warwar
Pied Crow Corvus albus
Ethiopian Swallow Hirundo aethiopica common
Mosque Swallow Hirundo senegalensis: 5
European House Martin Delichon urbica: 4 near Guroje
Yellow-throated Longclaw Macronyx croceus (elev. 4,500 ft.)
common on Plateau
Kurrichane Thrush Turdus pelios at Warwar
Moustached Warbler Sphenoeacus mentalis near Guroje
Bell Shrike Laniarius ferrugineus at Warwar
Woodchat Lanius senator: 4 seen
Grey-headed Sparrow Passer griseus at Warwar
Village Weaver Ploceus cucullatus at Mai Samari

One further comment: Blue-headed Wagtails were still present at Serti and on the Mambilla Plateau, Whinchats also on the Plateau. They have disappeared from the Takum area, where I live, since late March.

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INTERESTING RECORDS FOR THE IBADAN AREA

By

J.A. Broadbent

The following notes are based on sporadic watching and more intensive netting in the Ibadan area (as defined by Elgood & Sibley, 1964) between early 1969 and mid-1971. Those species marked with an asterisk appear to be new to the Ibadan avifauna.

African Little Grebe Podiceps ruficollis

This species can often be seen on the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) lake and Eleiyele reservoir. Once some twenty birds were counted on the latter.

Red-necked Little Bittern Ixobrychus minutus

This species has been seen several times at Eleiyele reservoir, where it is probably quite common but difficult to see because of its secretive habits.

Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax

One bird seen at the Railway reservoir on 6th February 1971. The only other record of this species in the Ibadan area appears to be that of Elgood
*Marsh Harrier Circus aeruginosus et.al(1966)

A female or immature bird was seen at Moor Plantation on 22nd November 1969.

Long-crested Hawk-Eagle Lophaetus occipitalis

One seen at Moor Plantation on 31st January and 4th February 1969.

Osprey Pandion haliaetus

A single bird was seen at Eleiyele reservoir on 11th January 1969.

African Hobby Falco cuvieri

Up to three hobbies can often be seen stooping at yellow wagtails flying into the Moor Plantation roost. Single birds have also been seen at Ibadan University fish-pond (1st March 1971) and the IITA site (31st July 1970).

Finfoot Podica senegalensis

Seen twice on the Ona river between Eleiyele reservoir and Moor Plantation and twice at the IITA site.

Snipe Gallinago gallinago

This species seems to occur more often in the Ibadan area now than at the time of Elgood and Sibley's study (1964). A few birds were present at Moor Plantation during each of the last three dry seasons while a flock of about 16 birds were seen at Eleiyele reservoir on 18th January 1969. Snipe have also been seen at Ibadan University farm and fishpond and the IITA site. Earliest record: 1st October 1969. Latest record: 15th March 1969.

Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus

Single birds seen at Eleiyele reservoir on 25th January and 15th March 1969.

*Red-headed Lovebird Agapornis pullaria

Two birds were seen at Moor Plantation on 14th June 1970. They may have escaped from captivity, although this species certainly occurs at Oyo - some 30 miles North of Ibadan.

African Yellow-billed Cuckoo Cuculus canorus gularis: Records for 22nd February 1969 and 26th February 1971, at Jericho Reservation and Moor Plantation respectively, although I have heard this species several times in the Ibadan area. I suspect that this cuckoo has become a regular dry-season visitor to Ibadan since Elgood and Sibley first recorded it in 1964.

Scops Owl Otus scops scops: One bird netted at Moor Plantation on 12th March 1971.

Long-tailed Nightjar Caprimulgus climacurus: Of ten individuals netted at Moor Plantation during the last three years, three had a decidedly more rufous plumage than the others and were ascribed to the subspecies sclateri.

Standard-wing Nightjar Macrodipteryx longipennis: One bird was netted at Moor Plantation on 10th January 1971.

Roller: Coracias garrulus/abyssinica: A European/Abyssinian Roller was seen on Ibadan golf course on 13th December 1970 (K. Lethbridge, pers. comm.).

*Sand Martin Riparia riparia: A single bird was netted at Moor Plantation on the 8th February 1971 as it entered some tall grass to roost. Although this is apparently the first definite record of R. riparia at Ibadan, at least one of the birds seen by Ashford (1968) might have been of this species.

Tree Pipit Anthus trivialis

Red-throated Pipit A. cervinus: These species, first recorded in 1967/68 on Ibadan University campus (Pettet, 1968), have since been netted at Moor Plantation, about 7 miles SW of the University.

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-shrike Campephaga phoenicea: A male bird was seen near the Railway reservoir on 6th February 1971 and a female on the University of Ife (Ibadan campus) on 7th March 1971.

Forest Robin Stiphrornis erythrothorax

Moloney's Akalat Trichastoma fulvescens

Blissett's Wattle-eye Platysteira blissetti

Blue-billed Weaver Spermophaga haematina: One to three birds of each species have been caught during limited netting in wooded areas of Ibadan University campus, lending some support to the suggestion of Elgood and Sibley (1964) that some forest-inhabiting species may be commoner than the rare sightings suggest.

Sedge Warbler Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Reed Warbler A. scirpaceus:

Great Reed Warbler A. arundinaceus: Although these species were only recently recorded for Ibadan (Ashford & Parker, 1968; Ashford, 1969), the following observations tend to support the suggestion by Ashford and Parker (1968) that they may have been overlooked before. Six individuals of A. schoenobaenus were ringed at Ibadan University farm in early 1970, and one of these was retrapped by Dr. G.E. Kemp[†] over a year later at

* Virus Research Laboratory, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ibadan.

the same site. Both Reed Warblers have been netted regularly during the last three years at Moor Plantation and Ibadan University farms.

Icterine Warbler Hippolais icterina: A single bird was netted on Jericho Reservation on 2nd May 1971. This is apparently only the second record of this species for the Ibadan area (c.f. Parker, 1970).

Melodious Warbler H. polyglotta: Earliest date for Ibadan: 8th November 1970. Latest: 2nd April 1969 (the latter date was kindly provided by G.E. Kemp).

Whitethroat Sylvia communis: An adult bird was netted at Ibadan University farm on 6th December 1970. This record extends the southerly range of this species in Nigeria by over 2° (c.f. Ebbutt et al , 1964).

White-fronted Grosbeak Amblyospiza albifrons

Red-headed Dioch Quelua erythropt: Elgood and Sibley (1964) considered these species to be rare but resident in the Ibadan area, although Elgood (1966) later suggested that the latter may be migratory in southern Nigeria. Both occur at Moor Plantation, several hundred diochs roosting there daily during the rainy season. A White-fronted Grosbeak has also been netted at the old Ife University farm. The netting records of Dr. G.E. Kemp and ourselves indicate that both species may occur in the Ibadan area only during the rainy season, earliest and latest netting dates being:

Earliest Latest

White-fronted Grosbeak

1969	29th May	23rd October
1970	12th May	20th September

Red-headed Dioch

1969	12th June	---
1970	12th May	9th October
1971	12th March	---

It would be interesting to know whether the findings of others support these observations.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill Estrilda melpoda: My observations suggest that this species is more frequent in the Ibadan area than Bass (1967) implies. I have seen it at Ibadan University farm, IITA and Moor Plantation. At the latter it roosts in small numbers (perhaps 100 birds) from the end of the rains onwards.

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ADDITIONS TO THE AVIFAUNAS OF
WAZA(CAMEROUN) AND LAKE NATU(SOKOTO)

By

J. A. Broadbent

A. WAZA NATIONAL PARK

Of 82 species recorded at Waza between 24-28th March 1969, the following were not listed by Fry (1970a):

* Rosy Pelican Pelecanus onocrotalus

Grey Pelican P. rufescens: It is interesting that these birds were not present during Fry's visit in late November although the former especially was widely distributed on the Logone river, some 15 miles East of Waza, at that time (Fry, 1970b).

Long-tailed Shag Phalacrocorax africanus

Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax: About fifty individuals of this delightful birds were seen together beside one of the pools.

Little Egret Egretta garzetta

Grey Heron Ardea cinerea

* Wood Ibis Ibis ibis

* African Spoonbill Platalea alba

* Egyptian Goose Alopochen aegyptiaca

* Pintail Anas acuta: Three seen.

Palm-nut Vulture Gypohierax angolensis: To judge from Bannerman (1953), Waza must be near the northern limit of this species.

Swallow-tailed Kite Elanus riocourii: Widespread.

*Lesser Lily Trotter Microparra capensis

*Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa

Marsh Sandpiper Tringa stagnatilis

*Common Snipe Gallinago gallinago

*West African Pratincole Glareola pratincola: Common.

Long-tailed Parakeet Psittacula krameri

Pied Kingfisher Ceryle rudis

Striped Kingfisher Halcyon chelicuti

*These species were not listed by either Reis (1945) or Good (1952, 1953) and appear to be new to Cameroun.

The dry season was sufficiently advanced at the time of our visit for the pools in the open areas of the reserve to be teeming with bird life. Large flocks of pelicans, with smaller numbers of ducks and geese, were swimming on the open waters while the marshy edges of the pools abounded with waders, herons and ibises. European Turtle-doves Streptopelis turtur were migrating across the open plains in a seemingly endless procession of small flocks. White Storks Ciconia ciconia were not seen, although two individuals each of the Ostrich Struthio camelus and the Grey-backed Fiscal Shrike Lanius excubitorius were recorded. Large numbers of graminivorous species were seen around the pools in the more wooded westerly part of the reserve.

B. LAKE NATU, BAKURA (Near Sokoto)

Of 100 species seen during a visit between 10-12th April 1971, the following 27 species were not (or only tentatively) listed by Fry (1965) and Walker (1965):

African Openbill Anastomus leucelligerus: One bird.

Glossy Ibis Plegadis falcinellus: Eight birds feeding on a marshy area beside the lake.

Knob-billed Goose Sarkidiornis melanota: Two birds.

Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius: One flock of eight birds.

Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola: This species, tentatively listed by Fry (1965), was seen frequently.

Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus: Two birds.

White-winged Black Tern Sterna leucoptera: One bird. Walker (1965) saw five terns at Natu but did not identify the species.

Four-banded Sand-grouse Pterocles quadricinctus: Two birds netted on 11th April confirmed that this species, tentatively listed by Fry (1965), occurs at Natu. Large numbers were heard calling as they flew to the lake each evening.

Gold Coast Spine-tailed Swift Chaetura ussheri: Seen occasionally over the lake. Fry (pers. Comm.) informs me that there is a colony of this swift at Natu.

Giant Kingfisher Ceryle maxima: One bird.

Red-throated Bee-eater Merops bulocki: Two ~~were~~ netted in scrub behind the shoreline. Fry (pers. com.) suggests that Ntatu must be near the northern limit of this species in Nigeria.

Hoopoe Upupa epops: One bird, thought to be of the subspecies senegalensis.

Wryneck Jynx torquilla: One bird netted on 11th April.

Sand Martin Riparia riparia: Occasional.

Swallow Hirundo rustica: Frequent.

Glossy-backed Drongo Dicrurus adsimilis: One bird.

Whinchat Saxicola rubetra: One bird

Blackcap Babbler Turdoides reinwardii: One bird. Two individuals of the Sudan Brown Babbler (T. plebejus) were seen.

Gold Coast Fantail-Warbler Cisticola juncidis: The identity of this bird, which occurred occasionally, was confirmed by netting.

Grey-backed Camaroptera Camaroptera brachyura: Frequent.

Senegal Puffback Flycatcher Batis senegalensis: One seen.

Rock-bunting Emberiza tahapisi: One seen.

Pin-tailed Whydah Vidua macroura: Occasional, one netted.

Melba Finch Oxytrypiza atricollis: Heard only.

Warbling Silverbill Lonchura malabarica: Occasional.

Bronze Mannikin L. cucullata: Five seen

Other notable observations were:

Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax: A party of 12 birds, mostly juvenile, were present throughout the visit.

Black Heron Egretta ardesiaca: One bird was seen on a marshy area beside the lake.

Swamp Flycatcher Muscicapa aquatica: One netted.

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THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RED-EYED TURTLE DOVE

STREPTOPELIA SEMITORQUATA

This note raises a query regarding the habitat of the Red-eyed Turtle Dove which can be answered by members of the Society. The query arose when I was writing up notes on the birds seen on a short visit to Mount Cameroun in December 1970. (see this issue)

In my experience in Ghana it is not found in the lowland forest areas and only occurs in the more open and drier areas to the north of the forest belt and on certain areas of the Accra Plain. This distribution agrees with Bannerman (1953) who writes that it is "a bird of the open country and not of the forest, preferring plantations and second growth". In Cameroun, however, I found the bird to my surprise in the montane forest and Serle (1965) writes that the bird is found "in the forest from sea level up to 6000 ft. and in the orchard bush and gallery woods of the savanna." This distribution in Cameroun agrees with Machworth-praed and Grant (1971) who write that it is "found throughout the area (West Africa) in wooded country or forest, but quite often seen also in open country ...". Presumably in Nigeria there is a transition zone and it would be of interest if members would write in to the Bulletin describing the habitat in which they have found the Red-eyed Turtle Dove.

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L. Grimes.

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INTERNATIONAL WILDFOWL CENSUS 1970/71

The winter of 1970/71 did not produce the spectacular numbers of migrant ducks that have been seen in recent years. The Lakes near Kano and Kazaure either were not full enough or were covered in the particular type of grass which restricts feeding areas for duck.

In the Kirikasamma area there were very large numbers of White Faced Whistling Duck Dendrocygna viduata and Fulvous Duck Dendrocygna bicolor but the only migrants seen were Garganey Anas querquedula with a maximum of 500 on February 26th.

The Matara/Nguru area held comparatively few local ducks and the flocks of migrants were fewer than have been seen in recent years. A greater variety of migrants were seen or shot (all my visits coincided with heavy Harmattan which restricted visibility). The first Gadwall Anas strepera to be recorded in Nigeria since 1929 was shot on Dec. 12th and fifteen Shoveller Anas clypeata and ten Common Teal Anas crecca were seen on the same date. Pintail Anas acuta were at their peak in December when 300 were seen and the maximum Ferruginous Duck Aythya nyroca recorded was 60. A Common Pochard Aythya ferina stayed on a pool in Kano city for three months.

Ferruginous, Pintail and Garganey were reported from Sokoto but no details of numbers. Frank Walsh also reported Pintail and Garganey from Northern Ghana.

The effect of dam construction and drainage which is planned for the Hadejia Valley and other areas in Northern Nigeria will not be known for some years. I have suggested to the Kano State Government that certain areas be preserved for sporting and tourist purposes.

R.E. Sharland.

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NIGERIAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' SOCIETY.

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 30th November 1971.

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Subscriptions received	72. 16. 8
Sale of Back Numbers	<u>3. 6. -</u>
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Standard Bank Kano		
Current Account	70. 6. 4	
Deposit	50. - . -	
Lloyds Bank, Ringwood	7. - . -	<u>£127. 6. 4.</u>

Subscriptions received includes £17.17.- paid in advance.

The above statement has been compiled from the books and records kept by me.

signed.

R.E.Sharland.



